THE TIMES

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TODAY

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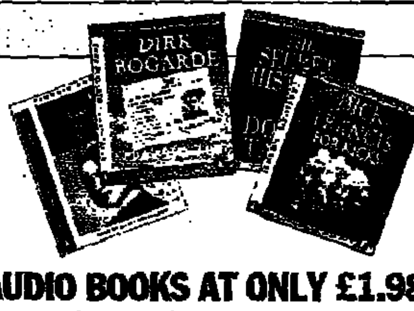
Magazine



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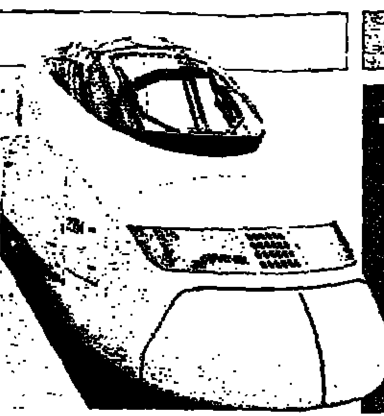

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700,000 exiles take the road home

Exodus begins as militia are driven from Zaire camps

FROM SAM KILEY IN GOMA

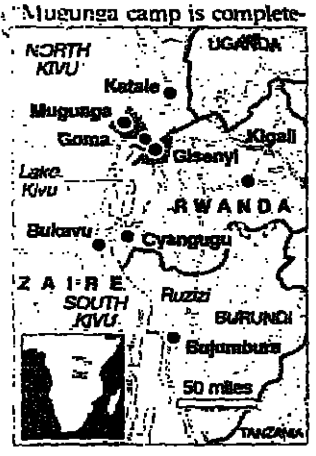
HUNDREDS of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees joined a gigantic flood of humanity 25 miles long yesterday in an exodus with a difference — they were going home.

Packing their belongings into sacks, rolling their mattresses into bundles, they heaved their lives on to their heads after extremist Hutu militia who had held them captive for two years were overrun in a brilliant surprise attack by east Zaire's rebels.

"We had 50,000 refugees crossing into Rwanda as of mid-afternoon. There are another 300,000 to 400,000 on the move," Fernando del Mundo, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said. Ray Wilkinson, also of the UN, said the camps were now empty of all but the dead.

"It seems the whole pocket around Goma and Mugunga involving 700,000-plus people is on the move, most of them in this direction," he said. "Mugunga camp is completely empty, but we have been discovering massacre sites within the camp.

"At this rate, most of these people could be home by the weekend," he added. "It is extraordinary we have seen the cracking of this problem in one day."



Despite the dramatic exodus the countries planning to join a multinational force were continuing yesterday to prepare troops for deployment to the region.

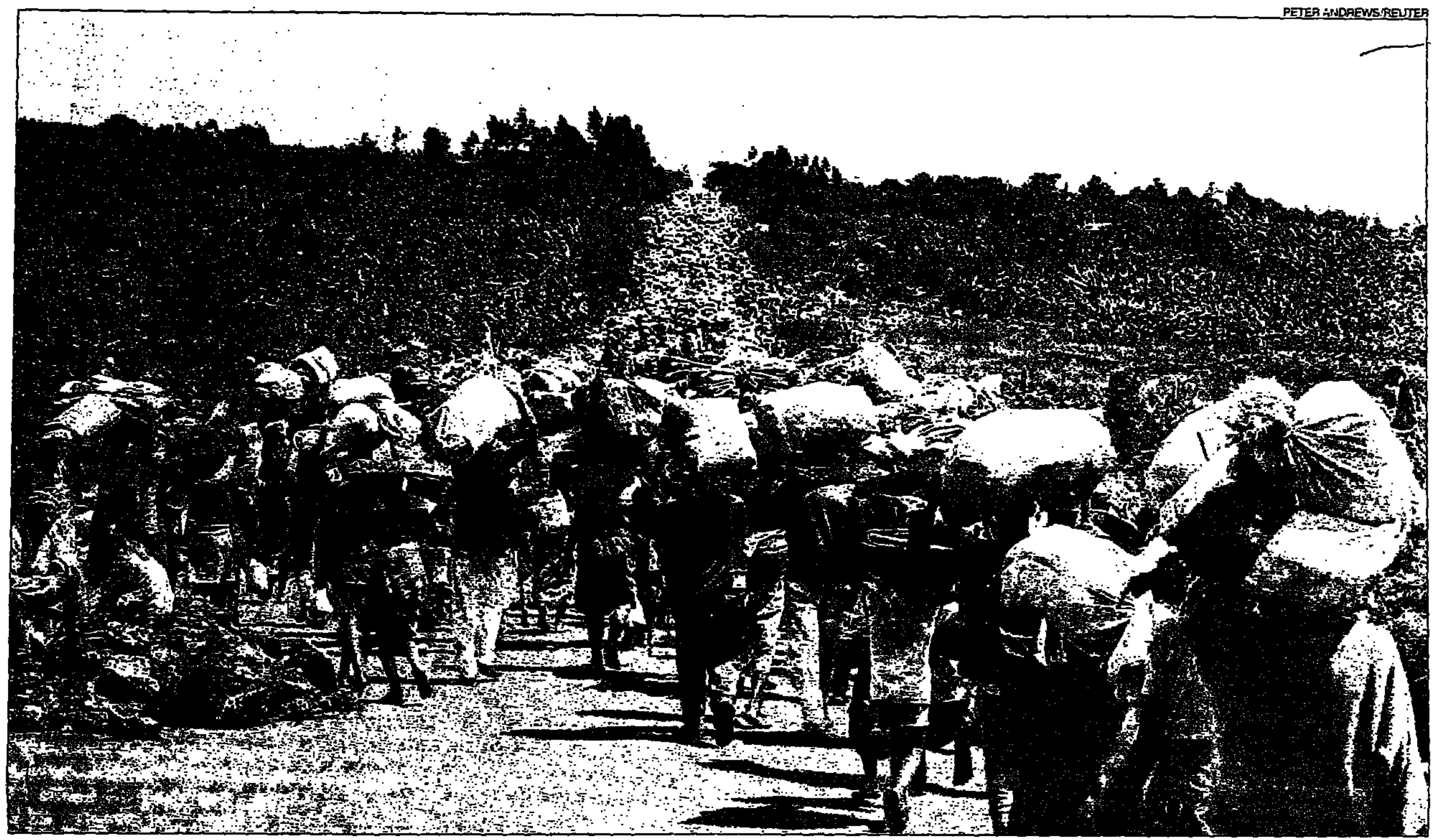
In New York, the United Nations Security Council agreed on a resolution to deploy the force which was due to be adopted last night.

A British reconnaissance party also arrived in Nairobi last night to begin assessing the requirements for Britain's contribution. However, the Rwandan Government said yesterday that the return of the refugees removed the need for an international force.

The rebels assaulted militia positions on Thursday afternoon and had driven their enemy into the jungle by yesterday morning.

Rwandan Hutu civilians were then ordered to leave for home. They needed little persuasion after two years in refugee camps as prisoners of the militia which was behind the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

About 35 people, including women and children who had been collecting water from an Oxfam storage tank, were allegedly murdered by Rwandan Tutsi soldiers in revenge for the genocide. A few very young babies were discovered among the dead and the wounded and were rushed to a hospital in Goma by Merlin, the British medical agency.



PETER ANDREWS/REUTER

A 25-mile column of refugees trudges back to Rwanda from Mugunga camp in Zaire. The camp was deserted last night. About 35 people were killed by advancing Tutsis

The incident marred what was otherwise an almost happy occasion, even though the refugees' leaders had tried to persuade them that they would be slaughtered when they got back to Rwanda.

Juvenal Harelymana, 24, knew he would have to face enquiries into whether he participated in the genocide when he got to Rwanda. "I am not afraid. I did not do anything wrong during the genocide so I have nothing to fear," he said.

Earlier claims by aid agencies that hundreds were dying in Mugunga camp, where the refugees had been concentrated, have proved entirely false. They were given two weeks' food, two days before the great march home, and their water supply system was intact in spite of the fighting.

The first 10,000 refugees crossed into Rwanda in an hour and a half yesterday morning and were housed in a reception centre. But the breathtaking number of others behind them are likely to overwhelm the relief agencies and the Rwandan Government who have jointly planned for an influx of 250,000 people.

As Rwanda's Hutus headed home along the main road, the rebels continued to flow west, deeper into Zaire. Their prey were the *Interahamwe*, the extremist Hutu militia. Heavily armed and scowling, they jogged in single file over rolling hills to hunt down their enemies.

Handfuls of others watched the refugee flood with indifference. "They are not interested in us. It's the militia they are after. They don't want to kill us," said Juvenal.

Paulin Ndahayo, 20, an aspiring Hutu poet and former translator, was visibly delighted at the sight of the rebels. He had been repeatedly threatened with murder by the *Interahamwe* because he spoke English.

"I am very relieved to be out of this. I am going home, home. I have dreamed of this moment and lived in fear for two years," he said.

Speaking for the UNHCR, Mr Wilkinson said: "From an humanitarian point of view a major nut has been cracked. We've got what we wanted. Instead of waiting a month for a UN military intervention during which many people would have died, the rebels have sorted out the problem."

Military options, pages 16, 17
Simon Jenkins, page 22
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Mother of refuge. Magazine

Court ruling to free hundreds from jail

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of prisoners are to be freed from jail early after a High Court ruling yesterday that the method used for calculating inmates' release dates was unlawful.

The unanimous decision is expected to trigger a flood of compensation claims from inmates and ex-offenders going back six years, which could cost £18 million.

Two prisoners at the centre of the ruling were freed from jail within hours of yesterday's 25-page unanimous judgment by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and two other judges. Fifty other prisoners could be released within the next few days.

Michelle Evans left Brockhill jail near Redditch, where she had been serving two years for robbery and burglary and Paul Reid left Onley young offender's institution near Rugby, where he was serving 27 months for burglary.

The prison service said early indications suggested that about 820 prisoners would be affected by the changes, with about 50 eligible for imminent release. More than 540 inmates were freed in August during the early release fiasco over the calculation of consecutive sentences.

Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, defended the Government's position and

Continued on page 2, col 1

BMW gets £50m aid for new plant

BMW is to build a new Rover engine plant in the West Midlands after the Government put up cash aid likely to top £50 million. The German company was enticed by sweeteners that include free land, help with the infrastructure and training, along with low wages ....Page 27

Schoolgirls riot

More than a hundred girls from rival schools in Wimbledon, southwest London, ran riot after two of them argued over a boyfriend ....Page 5

Ulster peace hope

Sir Patrick Mayhew made his most conciliatory speech about Sinn Fein since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire, breathing new life into the peace process .... Page 6

Hunt on to find widow, 89, with £2m lottery ticket

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AN ELDERLY widow from Hull says she is the missing owner of the ticket for a National Lottery prize of almost £2.1 million, the biggest unclaimed sum. The woman contacted the *Hull Daily Mail* anonymously claiming that her husband had bought the ticket shortly before his death, but she did not want the money.

In her letter the woman, who is 89, says she is too scared to collect her winnings and has asked that the money go to the hospitals which cared for her dying husband in his final days. But unless she specifies which ones they are, the prize will go into the lottery distribution fund, which gives unclaimed prize money to a variety of good causes.

Stan Szecowka, the paper's deputy editor, said he was convinced that her letter was not a hoax and urged the pensioner to come forward before the deadline of 11am next Thursday when the ticket can no longer be cashed. Camelot, the lottery organisers, said: "We can confirm that a winning ticket for the May 25 draw was purchased in Hull. The sum involved is £2,054,754. We had one case before when a lady didn't want to claim her prize. Unless the person does contact us, we cannot help."

The winning numbers were 8, 20, 26, 34, 42, 43, and the bonus ball was 25. The writer claims that her husband had chosen the winning numbers in the May 25 draw in the first and only gamble of his life, but he died four months ago before they had decided to collect the money.

She wrote: "I have the winning lottery ticket, my late husband bought it. I was very shocked when he did, he had never gambled in his life, so I don't know why he did it. It was a grand feeling to win, but too late. I am 89 years of age. Sorry, but I don't wish to give my name. I am sure the fuss would finish me off."

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Bleak news for the fish as angler lands five a minute

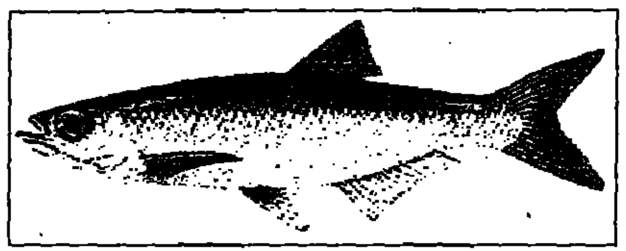
BY BRIAN CLARK, ANGLING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's match anglers have a new target. In a competition fished on the River Wye in Herefordshire the first three anglers averaged more than 1,000 fish apiece in 300 minutes. The winner caught 1,500.

The match results and the winners' tactics are analysed in the current issue of *Angling Times*, the matchman's tabloid *Wisden*.

The match was the Hereford and District Angling Association Open, on a river famous for big fish, with salmon, barbel and chub. Almost all the fish caught were bleak, a fish so tiny that they could free fall through a jamjar without touching its sides. A typical bleak weighs one third of an ounce. A glass-case bleak, if one can imagine such a trophy, would weigh half an ounce or a little more.

Larry Salter, of Ebbw Vale, landed enough to make up a total weight of 46lb 12oz, a bleak match record. The second biggest bag also broke the record, which had stood at 44 lb 2oz for years. The third biggest bag was not far behind.



The bleak: not worth eating so put back in the river

Salter, a "human windmill" according to *Angling Times*, took his fish on a single hook at a rate of five a minute, one every 12 seconds. In that time he had to cast out, get a bite, hook a fish, bring it in, unhook it, put it into a net for weighing later — and then rebait his hook if necessary.

"It was incredible," he said yesterday. "Sometimes they came faster, sometimes slower. There were periods when I was getting 12 fish a minute on the same chewed up maggot. Then things would grind almost to a halt. There were times when I was getting only two or three a minute. I just had to keep my head down. I just had to keep on concentrating. I was absolutely shattered by the end."

"Bleak bashing" is a far cry from the way most anglers fish. Most coarse anglers think bleak fishing is barmy —

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Howard knows how to pick his enemies

*The bruises he has suffered this week are, in the eyes of many of those the Home Secretary is keen to impress, badges of honour. **Michael Gove** explains*

IT HAS been a surprisingly good week for the Home Secretary. Surprising, because the headlines have dwelt on his defeats in court. Good, because those defeats draw to the attention of a wider audience just who Michael Howard has been fighting. The bruises he has sustained this week are, in the eyes of those he is keen to impress, badges of honour.

For a man spoken of as a future leader of the Conservative Party, it is important to have the right enemies in the eyes of one's honourable friends. On the Tory benches, and indeed in sections of the Tory press, it is no disadvantage to be seen as the enemy of liberal judges, the man who said no to Mohamed Al Fayed and the minister anxious to keep agitators from foreign shores on foreign shores.

Mr Howard's crime in Islington eyes is to have defied the progressive consensus in home affairs to which his predecessors deferred. While Mrs Thatcher's ministers won the economic arguments, they were more muted on social matters.

The consequence was a rising crime rate, a sense among voters that politicians were detached from their concerns and a waning in respect for the justice system. At the time Mr Howard became Home Secretary, BBC's *Panorama* was investigating the growing appetite for vigilante action across the country. He made it his task to provide the public with the protection they required.

Mr Howard's prescription of tougher sentences, more prisons and changes in the law to help the police aligned him with Middle England but alienated him from the higher professions. Home Office civil servants, lawyers and judges were deeply hostile to reform of the failing system over which they had presided.

The vocal opposition of these vested interests has been the best signal to Tory MPs that Mr Howard is addressing the concerns of their wavering supporters. Moreover, by seeking to clip judicial wings, Mr Howard is seen to be defending the supremacy of the Parliament in which those MPs sit.

Judges aside, the position of Parliament has been undermined by allegations of sleaze and the encroachment of Brussels. The man most associated with sleaze allegations against this administration has been Mohamed Al Fayed. Simply to be seen denying him citizenship, for whatever reason, will endear Mr Howard to embattled colleagues.

Those same colleagues have also been made increasingly aware of Mr Howard's Euro-scepticism. Offending judges in Strasbourg plays well with the Right, even more than annoying judges in the Strand. Also, Mr Howard's cheerleaders point out, he was the first minister to propose a power be *returned* to Britain from Brussels.

For those cheerleaders, it is Mr Howard's resolve more than the results that matter. But, for Mr Howard's Tory detractors, the accumulation of reverses in the courts make the Home Secretary accident-prone. He will certainly not be helped if he has to give taxpayers' money to criminals as compensation for too long a stay in prison. Moreover, Mr Howard's critics argue, his defeats are all the more dishonourable because his position is dictated by calculation, not conviction.

The Home Secretary is certainly ambitious, but in choosing to confront the liberal establishment he has displayed a certain courage. Vilification aside, he has denied himself the benefit of the doubt from traditional sources extended to his more consensual fore-runners. His enemies are hungry for his humiliation. But it is by the vigour of their opposition that he is strengthened where it counts: on the backbenches.

High Court condemns prisons confusion

By Richard Ford and Adrian Lee

THE Prison Service suffered a fresh blow yesterday when *the High Court ruled that it* had been calculating release dates on concurrent sentences unlawfully for almost 30 years.

In a unanimous decision, three judges headed by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, upheld a test case brought as a result of this summer's fiasco over the early release of 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences.

The judges said: "It appears that defendants are remaining *in prison when* the *sentencing* court did not intend that they should."

Lord Bingham said: "The *principle that a prisoner's* release date should be beyond dispute, and that the provisions governing it should be easy to apply, is of great importance. It is not, on any showing, a test which the present provisions meet. They are not clear to the courts, or the legal profession, or prisoners or, it would seem, the prison authorities."

The judges held that the Prison Service's method of deducting time spent on re*mand from the overall* length of sentences was fatally flawed. Lord Bingham concluded: "It appears that defendants are remaining in prison when the sentencing court did not intend that they should."

The ruling overturns earlier court decisions going back to 1982 which had all upheld the Prison Service's method of calculating jail terms in concurrent cases. They included judgments involving a host of senior members of the judicia*ry including Lord Woolf*, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Lloyd. The judges confirmed the case raised a *point of law of general public* importance, but refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords. Lord Bingham said *they were not attempting to* thwart the Home Office and that it was still open to Mr Howard to apply to the Lords for leave to appeal.

Within hours of the judgment, the two prisoners who brought the case were released from custody. Michelle Evans, one of the prisoners, was jailed for two years for terrorising a stranger in the street before robbing her of jewellery.

Clare Lewis, 18, was approached by Evans, a single *parent, in the Grangetown* area of Cardiff. An engagement ring was torn from her finger and two gold chains from her neck. In January, Cardiff Crown Court heard that the victim pleaded to keep her engagement ring. In return Miss Evans, now 22, demanded a pair of gold earrings.

She was later caught by police who were already holding a warrant for her arrest after another burglary. She *pleaded guilty to robbery*, burglary and absconding.

Jailing her, Judge Michael Burr said the sentence reflect*ed how seriously courts would* deal with those who robbed members of the public in the street.

Paul Reid, from Manor Park, east London, the other prisoner in yesterday's case, was jailed for 27 months at Snaresbrook Crown Court in May, for four household burglaries and one handling charge. *The break-ins* were carried out in the East Ham and South Woodford areas between August 1994 and May 1995.

Karamjit Singh Chahal waves to supporters yesterday as he leaves Bedford prison after the Home Secretary ordered his release

Accused activist freed after six years inside

By Richard Ford

A SIKH activist who spent six years in prison awaiting deportation for alleged terrorist activities was freed yesterday after the European Court of Human Rights ruled that if he returned to India he risked torture and mistreatment.

Within an hour of the judgment Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, ordered the release of Karamjit Singh Chahal from Bedford prison, where he had spent six years fighting an expulsion order.

The country's longest serving detainee embraced his wife and two teenage children outside the jail. He said: "I am not angry. I am very happy. It is just like a dream."

The court said the British government's untested allegations about Mr Chahal's terrorist activities and his threat to UK national security, were not a consideration in its decision. The judges ruled by 21 votes to seven that if Mr Chahal, 48, from Luton in *Bedfordshire, was deported to* India, as the then Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke had ordered in 1991, the Government would breach his human rights safeguarding citizens against mistreatment. The court also ruled that his rights had been violated by the absence of a judicial involvement in testing the "national security" grounds on which he was to be deported.

The judges said that although they were well aware *of the difficulties faced by* countries fighting terrorist violence, the European Convention on Human Rights absolutely prohibited torture or inhuman treatment, irrespective of the person in question.

"It was therefore unnecessary for the court to enter into a consideration of the Government's untested, but no doubt bona fide allegations about Mr Chahal's terrorist activities and the threat posed by *him to national security*," the judgment said.

"The only relevant question was whether substantial grounds had been shown for believing that he would be ill-treated in India."

They said they were persuaded by evidence from Amnesty International and the US State Department that *until 1994 at least some in the* Punjab police were accustomed to acting without regard to the human rights of *suspected Sikh militants*.

But they ruled by 13 votes to six that the fact that Mr Chahal had been in detention and uncharged for so long was not a breach of his human rights. The case involved serious considerations and it had not been in the public interest to act hastily.

Prisoners freed

Continued from page 1

said that four previous court rulings had upheld the prison service's method of calculation. "What the courts have reversed is not the Home Secretary's practice but it is their own four previous rulings", she added.

Miss Widdecombe said she was not willing to concede there was a convincing case for compensation. "We were *detaining them in accordance* with the law laid down at the time. So we are by no means ready to say that there's a blanket case for compensation," she said.

A Home Office spokesman said the Government would consider the judgment carefully before deciding whether to appeal to the House of Lords. If the Lords backed Mr Howard, any prisoner released early would be liable to be recalled to jail.

Helen Edwards, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "We trust that this time the Prison Service has made plans to ensure these prisoners will be adequately prepared for their release, thus avoiding the problems *that occurred with the un*planned release of prisoners in the summer."

☐ Twenty-nine prison service members have been suspended from duty after a West Yorkshire police investigation into alleged expenses fiddles by former and present staff attached to the service's Wakefield training college.

The problem that was ringing alarm bells

By Richard Ford

MICHAEL HOWARD has known for months of mounting alarm within the Prison Service about the complexity of *calculating the release dates of inmates* from prison. Derek Lewis, the former Director General of the Prison Service, warned the Home Secretary last year that the "law governing sentence calculation is difficult and arcane".

In a memo seen by *The Times*, he told Mr Howard and Ann Widdecombe, the prisons Minister, that the complexity of the system led to legal challenge, a high error rate and arbitrary results: "The law governing sentence calculation has evolved over the past thirty years piecemeal. Successive layers of legislation have added to the complexities over time and created uneasy, and sometimes unworkable, juxtapositions. The results are so complex that only a *handful of people in the prison service* and legal advisers branch together have full *mastery* of the technical application of the law in the most complex of individuals."

The task facing prison staff who have to calculate at least 120,000 sentences each year was highlighted by a sentence calculation manual sent to prisons in August. It was this revised manual, based on Home Office legal advice, which triggered the early release of 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences and a series of court hearings culminating in yesterday's decision on concurrent sentences.

The revised guidance on consecutive sentences, often given to hardened criminals, was that the total time spent *on remand should be taken off each jail* term. Michael Howard ordered a halt to the early releases after receiving further legal advice from David Pannick, QC, and at the end of August won the backing of the High Court. They ruled that it was "an absurdity" if the total time spent on remand for a series of offences was to be reduced from each consecutive sentence handed down by the court. It was to be reduced from the overall sentence.

Mr Justice Popplewell said that under the Prison Service guidelines, a man who had spent a year on remand in prison and was sentenced to a year in jail for ten offences consecutively would be released immediately whereas his accomplice who had received *bail would face ten years in prison*.

However, in backing Mr Howard on consecutive jail terms, the judges warned that there was ambiguity over the correct treatment of concurrent sentences, often given to less serious offenders.

David Roddan, general secretary of the Prison Governors Association, welcomed yesterday's clarification of the way sentences should be calculated: "In a busy local prison, a governor would be occupied for half a day every day just doing the calculations."

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Car linked to handbag snatch smashed into college friends as they jogged

Medical student killed by hit-and-run driver

By Paul Wilkinson

A MEDICAL student died and her friend was seriously injured after a hit-and-run driver struck them as they jogged through a park.

Caroline Elliott, 22, who died from head injuries yesterday, and Sarah Edenbrow, 21, were due to begin a new course together next week at Liverpool University. It is thought that the driver, who was travelling at up to 80mph, was escaping after snatching a handbag near by.

Miss Edenbrow, from Boston, Lincolnshire, was said to be in a serious condition last night with head and leg injuries. She shared a flat with Miss Elliott, from St Albans.

The fourth-year students were jogging in the rain in Sefton Park, Liverpool, when they were struck on Thursday evening. Friends and tutors spoke of their shock yesterday. Sanit Gosh, president of Liverpool University Medical Students' Society, said: "Caroline was a wonderful person. We are all terribly upset."

The two young women had just completed a course in childcare. On Monday they were due to start an obstetrics and gynaecology course at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

Professor Bernard Wood, the dean of the faculty of medicine at the University of Liverpool, said: "Caroline represented all that is good about medical students. She was diligent and caring but adventurous, too. She had studied in South Africa and was planning to visit Sweden to study next year." Miss Elliott has a brother and sister.

A spokesman for the Medical Students' Union said Miss Elliott's colleagues were "utterly devastated" by her death. "Caroline was immensely popular and she had lots of friends. She was so talented it was unbelievable. She put so much of herself into everything she did.

"She was a good medical student and a good netball player. She had her whole life ahead of her. She was a beautiful, intelligent woman. It is so sad. She had only one year to go and she would have qualified."

Miss Elliott had been due to take part in a fashion show in the near future. A rehearsal planned for last night was cancelled. She had represented the university at netball.

A witness said the students did not have a chance to escape from the path of the car. Fred Hill, 75, said: "The car wasn't driving, it was flying. I saw the car seconds before it hit the girls. It was travelling at about 80mph. There was no way they could have got out of the way."

A nurse who was passing helped the students. Merseyside Police believe that the driver of the vehicle, which was stolen from Broad Green, had been involved in a handbag snatch at the Tesco supermarket car park in the Allerton area. It may also have hit a parked car in Mossley Hill at about 5.30pm.

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Edge, crime manager for south Liverpool, appealled for witnesses yesterday. "The exact movements of the girls are not known," he said. "It was during the rush-hour and it was dark and raining. We would like to speak anyone who saw any one of the incidents: the bag-snatch at Tesco, the minor collision, the fatal collision or the abandoned car being left or burnt."

Miss Edenbrow's parents, Maureen and John, also appealed for witnesses. They said: "Our hearts and thoughts are with Caroline's parents and family. We would appeal to any witnesses to the incident or anyone who can help in any way to contact Merseyside Police."

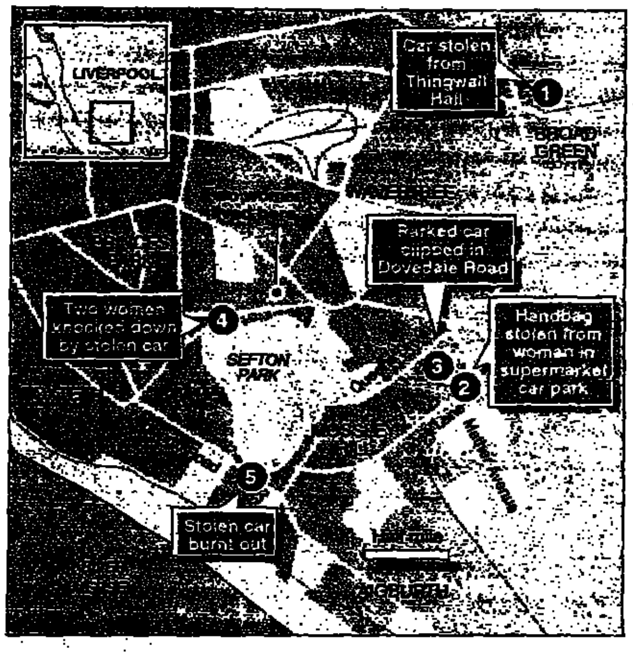
Mr Edge said that a woman had her handbag stolen as she was loading shopping into the boot of her car just after 5.30pm. The car sped from the scene and moments later clipped a parked car.

The girls were jogging at the Croxteth gate entrance to Sefton Park when the car hit them two or three minutes later. The Vauxhall Astra, index number J541 HHT, had been stolen from Thingwall Hall in Broad Green on Monday. It was set alight minutes later and burnt out in the car park of Belham Towers, a block of council flats.

Mr Edge said: "We cannot be certain that it was one car involved in all these incidents, but we believe it was. We need as many people to come forward as possible.

"We still need to establish where the women were when they were hit. We would urge the occupants of the car, or anyone who is hiding them, to come forward." Richard Oswick, a spokesman for Merseyside Ambulance Service, described the crash as appalling. He said: "The incident is made all the worse because the driver left the scene of the crash."

The Vauxhall Astra that hit the women was found burnt out in a car park. It was stolen on Monday


LIVERPOOL
Car stolen from Thingwall Hall
1
BROAD GREEN
Parked car clipped in Dovedale Road
Two women knocked down by stolen car
4
SEFTON PARK
3
2
Handbag stolen from woman in supermarket car park
5
Stolen car burnt out
AIGBURTH

Caroline Elliott, 22, died of head injuries the morning after the crash

TV show on antiques inspired burglar

By a Staff Reporter

A BURGLAR raided a museum and stole 18th-century antiques worth an estimated £50,000 after watching a BBC television programme about the collection, police believe.

Detectives said that the thief may well have seen an edition of *Going For A Song* before planning the raid at Bantock House Museum in Wolverhampton and finding a buyer for the haul. A canteen of cutlery, including 23 silver knives and two porcelain-handled forks, a wig powderer and a collection of Birmingham enamels and snuff boxes were taken. All the items stolen featured in the programme when it was relaunched last January with Michael Parkinson as host.

Detective Constable Peter Lane, of West Midlands police, said: "It seems a bit more than coincidence that they should all have been taken. It looks as if they could have been stolen to order following the programme."

After forcing a first-floor window last Thursday, the burglar crossed a conservatory roof before gaining access to the collection. The BBC last night described the raid as "unfortunate". Greg Hayman, a spokseman, said: "It's one of those very unhappy coincidences. It's true that the items did all feature on the programme, but they were also on public display, so people were able to view them."

Wolverhampton Borough Council, which administers the museum, said: "The burglar obviously knew what he was going for and it looks as though he stole to order." Kathleen Howe, curator at Bantock House, agreed. "We believe the burglary was carried out by one person who was extremely professional. He did not by-pass the security alarm but got away before police arrived. The collection was very rare and virtually irreplaceable."

Drummer loses job overture over drinking

By Paul Wilkinson

DRINKING was a regular feature of life among members of a leading BBC orchestra, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Some principal musicians allegedly took beta blockers because of the stresses of a punishing schedule.

But a timpanist was ruled to have been fairly dismissed for drunkenness after a series of incidents during a live broadcast, when he missed an entry and caused a noisy interruption as a wheel from a kettle drum rolled off the rostrum.

Ray Lomax, 41, had told the Manchester hearing that he had celebrated his birthday last January by drinking wine, gin and beer before an evening concert with the Philharmonic Orchestra. He was later replaced because his playing was "erratic". Afterwards he was sacked for "persistent gross insobriety".

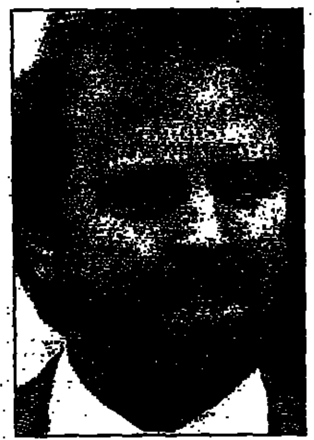
Mr Lomax, who had been with the orchestra for 20 years, told the hearing: "The timpani are quite a close set, a family really. We celebrate each others' birthdays with a meal. I had a gin and tonic and a couple of glasses of wine. After rehearsal, I went to the pub and had a couple of pints of bitter.

"I do not really believe what I consumed affected my playing. Maybe my mental state wasn't up to scratch, but what happened to the timpani was a complete accident. The wheel on one of the drums fell off the edge. I wasn't playing at the time so I grabbed it and brought it back. It was a bit of a shock and I had to get my place back. I don't disagree that I missed the first entering but I am contesting that my performance was completely erratic. Apart from the opening, the rest was perfect."

Mr Lomax from Stockport, Greater Manchester, had received a written warning after an earlier incident involving drink in May, 1995. At an internal BBC appeal against his sacking, Mr Lomax had claimed problems from his divorce had upset him.

Sandra Horne, controller of BBC regional broadcasting, said that Stan Martin, deputy secretary of the Musician's Union, had told the appeal that hard-drinking was common: "Mr Martin said some principal players were taking beta blockers and others had to find other ways to deal with pressure. He said that there was a drinking culture among musicians and their bosses were aware of this."

Dismissing the claim of unfair dismissal yesterday, the tribunal chairman Michael Coles said: "We have considerable sympathy with this applicant. The action was at the top end of harshness but we do not consider it unfair."


Lomax: lost wheel was "a bit of a shock"

Racing cars make a comeback in Goodwood classic

By Ian Murray, community correspondent

HISTORIC racing cars are to return to Goodwood, the West Sussex circuit where Stirling Moss once duelled with Fangio. Closed to racing for 30 years, Goodwood is planning to reopen in September, 1998, with a meeting for veteran sports cars. It will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first race.

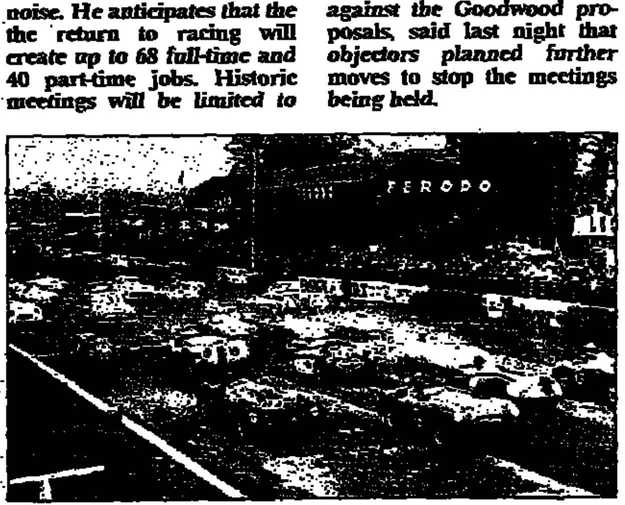
The go-ahead was given by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, who decided not to order a planning inquiry into the scheme, even though it runs counter to the Sussex development plan. Chichester council, which controls planning in the area, voted 29-12 in September to accept the proposal, even though its environment committee said unsilenced cars would create "unacceptable noise levels".

The Earl of March and Kinrara, who owns Goodwood, has promised to build earth barriers to limit the noise. He anticipates that the return to racing will create up to 68 full-time and 40 part-time jobs. Historic meetings will be limited to five days spread over two weekends a year, although the track can be used for up to 260 other days a year for other motoring events.

"We just want a very limited programme for these old cars," he said. "Apart from those five days a year the track will be very much quieter than at present and there will be 100 totally silent days a year instead of the 30 required at present."

Objecters include the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the South Downs Conservation Board and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Apart from the noise levels, they are concerned that events attracting crowds of over 20,000 could spoil the countryside, destroy wildlife habitats and make life in nearby villages intolerable.

Bob Trinder, chairman of the Environmental Protection Group formed to coordinate the campaign against the Goodwood proposals, said last night that objectors planned further moves to stop the meetings being held.



A sports car race at Goodwood in the 1950s

Angler hauls in five fish a minute

Continued from page 1

troutmen think it is ridiculous.

Alburnus alburnus was once common in rivers in England and Wales, but is now found in abundance mainly in the Herefordshire Wye. It feeds close to the surface when the river is full and can then be caught in huge numbers. It is not considered worth eating and, like most coarse fish, is put back into the river.

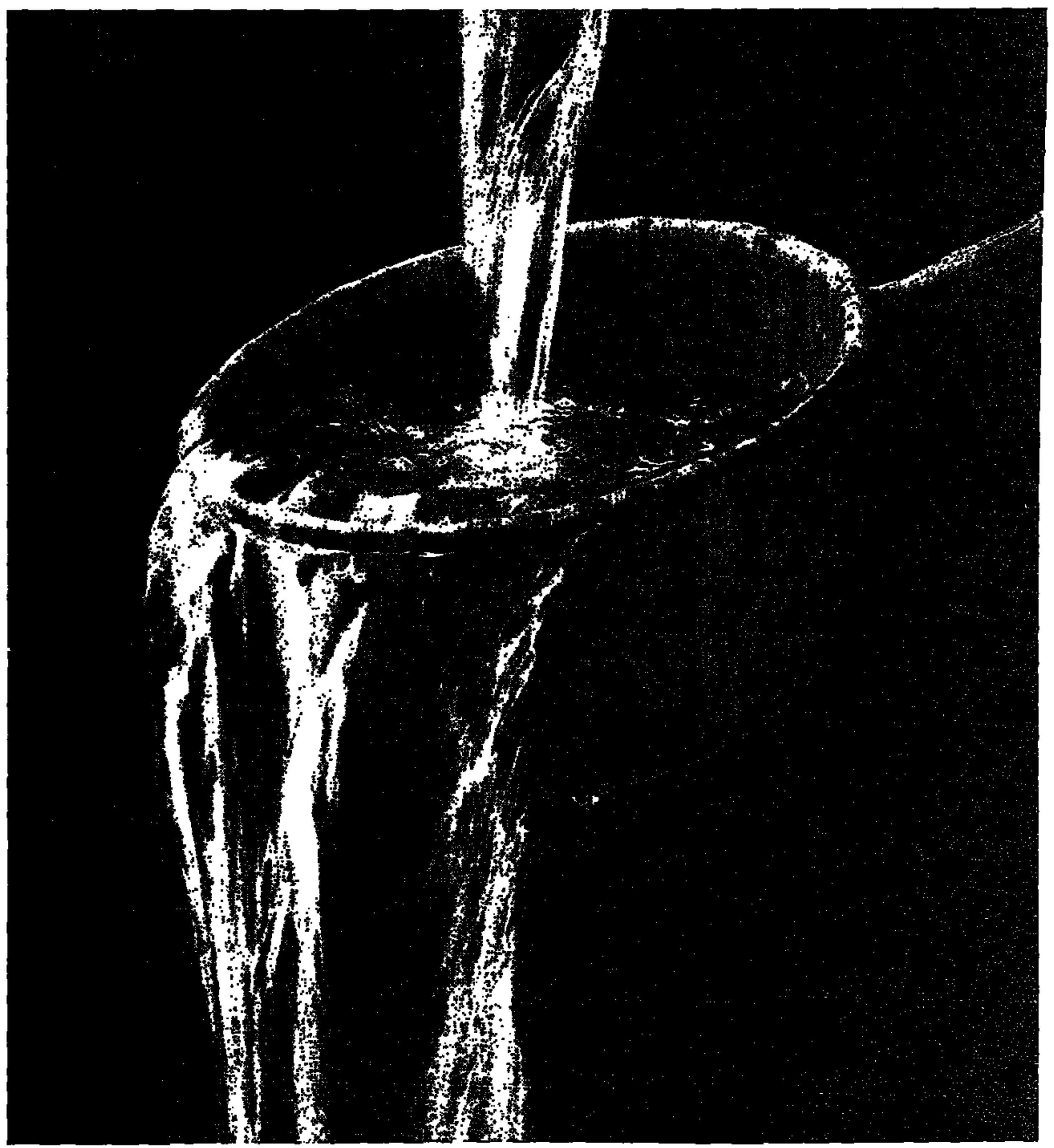
The techniques for catching bleak in numbers were developed in mainland Europe. The first great masters were the Italians, who used them to sweep the board in the 1976 World Championship in Bulgaria. Now continental methods are practised by a small but growing section of the match fishing fraternity here.

The rods the bleak men use are not traditional — they are short, ultra-light "whips" made of carbon fibre and two or three metres long. The line is fastened directly to the end and minute floats, weights and barbless hooks are attached to it. There is no reel. The fish are lured close in by groundbaiting and the hookbait is simply swung out among them. "Whip fishing is all about rhythm," Salter says.

"You have to practise and practise. When you are in business you have to be sure that every time you swing a fish in it is going to come to exactly the same spot by your shoulder. Your hand has to be there, waiting to catch it. Even before the fish touches the water in the keepnet, your right hand has to have the bait back among the bleak and your left hand has to be back by your shoulder again. It's like continuous saluting."

Salter prefers the top piece from a traditional old rod to carbon fibre. "It's perfect", he said. "It's really stiff. You can't afford anything too bendy because it might wobble when you are swinging a fish back and the fish might miss your hand. That would be a disaster. It could cost seconds. You can't afford that at this level. No way."

Leading article, page 23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Stone rolls home, despite cynics and a shoebox

By Shirley English

THE Stone of Destiny, the ancient symbol of Scotland's nationhood, was back on Scottish soil yesterday after 700 years' absence and an hour's delay caused by a bomb scare.

The small border town of Coldstream, decked out in celebratory red, white and blue bunting, earned a place in Scottish history as hundreds lined the streets to welcome home the 410lb red sandstone slab, also known as the Stone of Scone.

The first time the coronation stone of British monarchs had passed over the River Tweed was in 1296, travelling in the other direction as stolen cargo in the baggage of the conquering English King Edward I, the "Hammer of the Scots". He placed it beneath a chair at Westminster Abbey to symbolise the subjugation of the Scottish nation. The last time time the stone made a brief visit to Scotland was in 1950 with a great deal less ceremony: smuggled in the back of an unreliable Ford Anglia by four Scottish students who had stolen it from Westminster Abbey.

Edward I seized the stone for England

Yesterday, under clearing autumn skies, at 11.06am — 700 years, one hour and six minutes after it left — the relic recrossed the border to the sound of a lone piper and a solitary cry of "Freedom!" from someone in the exuberant crowd. It was the climax of a 400-mile journey from London which began on Thursday when the stone left Westminster Abbey at 7am under police guard on a journey broken by an overnight stay at Albemarle Barracks near Newcastle upon Tyne.

Travelling in the back of a green army Land Rover, out of sight in a blue box with a red wax seal, it reached the border at 10am. The return had been engulfed by an intensive security operation involving sniffer dogs and police boat patrols on the Tweed. Coldstream had been closed off since 9am.

The security sweep failed to spot a shoebox on the English side of the bridge, apparently placed there after the police search an hour earlier. It led to a start-stop ceremony as a security alert swung into action. Pipe bands which had started playing at 10.20am stopped and the ceremonial guard of 40 members of The King's Own Scottish Borderers lining the bridge watched as army bomb disposal experts swept past. It proved to be an empty shoe-box that kept the stone in England for an extra hour and six minutes.

Eventually the stone was escorted by The Coldstream Guards onto Coldstream bridge, where it was welcomed midway by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and Major-General Sir John Swinton, the Lord Lieutenant of Berwickshire, who toasted it with a dram.

The stone was piped over the Tweed by Captain Gavin Stoddart with *The Return of the Stone*, a melody he composed for the occasion. The pipes, drums and brass of the Lowland Band of The Scottish Division and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders took up the theme and escorted the pride of Scotland triumphantly into Coldstream along streets lined with cheering crowds. At the former town hall it was welcomed by Mr Forsyth and George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary.

Pat Gerber, author of *The Search for the Stone of Destiny*, was sceptical whether the real coronation stone of Scottish Kings was returning at all. The genuine article was marble and intricately carved, she said, and had never left Scotland. The sandstone slab returning was, according to Ms Gerber, an imposter. She believed the real stone had been hidden in anticipation of Edward I's arrival 700 years ago.

However, Scottish stone was Scottish stone: "On the other hand, it has been a hostage for the past 700 years and it is always nice to see a hostage come home."

As far as a clutch of Scottish Nationalists from Dundee were concerned, the English could keep their hostage. The return was, they said, nothing more than a political stunt. Before they could acquaint the Scottish Secretary with their views, however, police confiscated their loud-hailer.

After the 30-minute welcome, the stone, still out of sight, continued its journey to Edinburgh, where staff at the laboratories of Historic Scotland, the government heritage agency, will decide if restoration is required. The first chance that the public will have to see the ancient relic will be on St Andrew's Day, November 30, when it will leave the Palace of Holyroodhouse for its journey up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, its final resting place.

GARY ANTHONY

Out of sight but much in mind: the stone, inside an army Land Rover, crossing the Tweed into Scotland

Russians bank on shoestring Mars shot

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

RUSSIA hopes to revive its flagging reputation in space with the launch tonight of an ambitious Mars probe from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

If all goes well, Mars 96 will be the second of a flotilla of spacecraft on their way to the red planet: Nasa's Mars Global Surveyor was launched ten days ago and Mars Pathfinder, also from Nasa, is due to go on December 2.

Mars 96 is the biggest gamble of the three, launched by an impoverished cadre of engineers who lacked even enough money to test it thoroughly. "It's highly ambitious," says James Oberg, an American expert on the Russian space programme. "They're trying some new things at a time when they're having a hard time keeping up the old stuff."

The spacecraft consists of an orbiter and four robot landers. Two landers are designed to penetrate the surface of the planet to depths as great as six metres. To do this, the probes and associated electronics will have to survive crashing into Mars at up to 220 mph.

"They've put all their efforts into this probe," Mr Oberg says. "People have worked months without pay." Failure could mean the end for unmanned Russian probes. "If it doesn't work, they'll all be out driving cabs."

Insurer pays out no dough over mother's pride and joy

By Emma Wilkins

NATALIE STERN'S mother-in-law happily lent her a £40,000 diamond ring to wear at a family wedding in Jerusalem. There was no question she would take good care of the heirloom on the journey from Golders Green, north London, to Israel. And if the worst happened, it was insured.

Problems began when Mrs Stern removed the ring from her finger while baking bread in Jerusalem. She put it on a work surface and never saw it again, despite hours of searching.

Then the insurance company refused to pay for the cost of replacing it. Her mother-in-law, Shoshana Stern, launched a legal fight to challenge the insurers. It ended yesterday after three years. She lost.

The Court of Appeal upheld an earlier court ruling that the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society correctly refused to meet the cost of replacing the item. Under the terms of the insurance contract, the ring should have been kept in a locked safe when not on the insured person's finger or within sight, reach and attention of the wearer.

Having worn the ring continuously on the flight from London in May 1992, Mrs Stern left it on a kitchen work surface for several hours while she kneaded some bread and then got on with housework. When she looked for the ring in the kitchen, she could not find it.

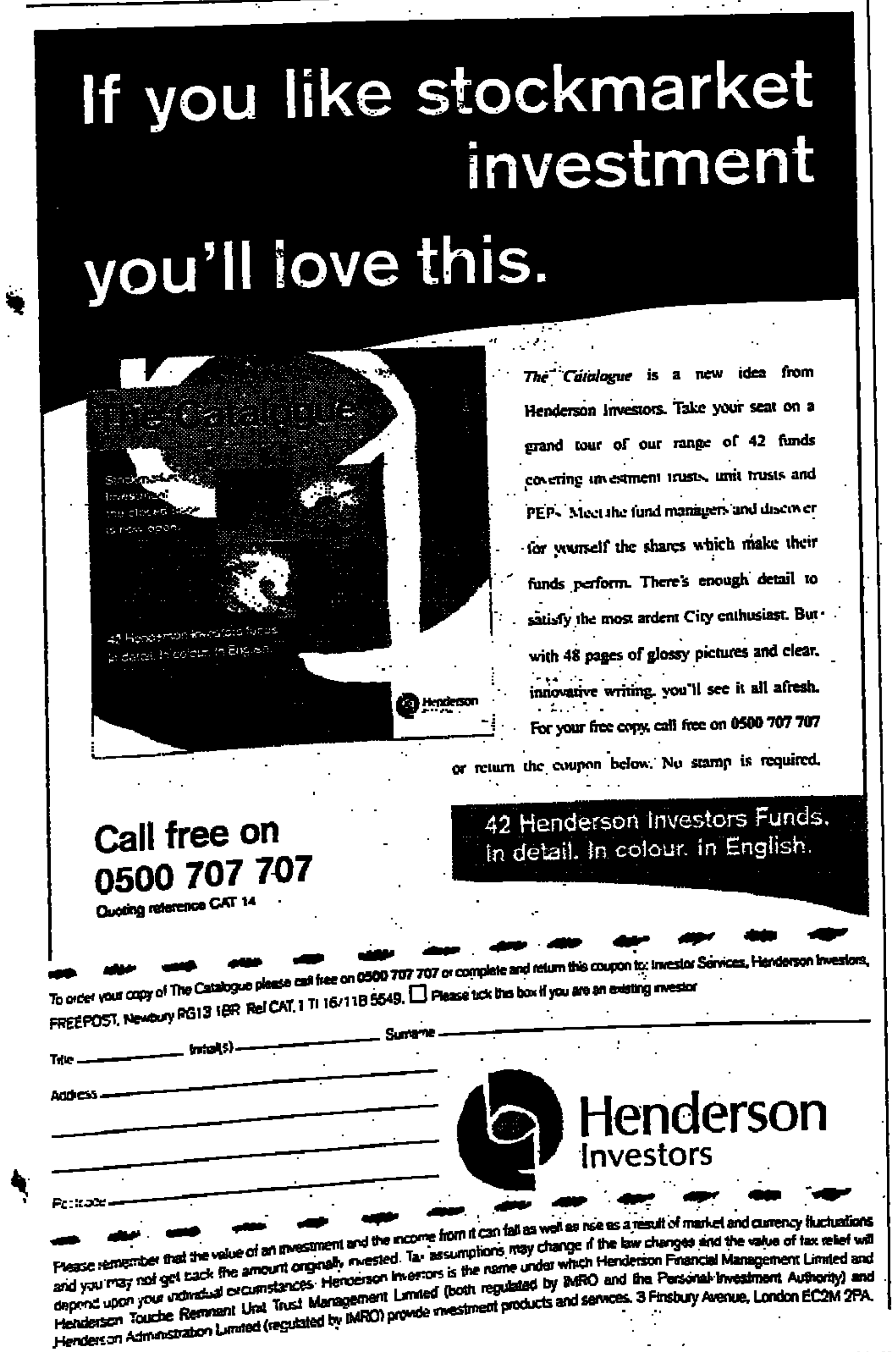
So began a desperate but fruitless search through rubbish bins inside and outside the flat and even in the freshly baked bread.

Judge Nigel Hague, QC, ruled at Slough County Court in December last year that Norwich Union was not obliged to cover the loss because of the policy clause which required the ring to be kept in a locked safe when not being worn. The insurance company conceded in the Appeal Court that "wearing" within the meaning of the policy included some limited temporary removal, such as for hand-washing, but not the making of bread.

Michael Burke-Gaffney, QC for Shoshana Stern, argued that there was no material difference between taking off the ring for the washing of hands and removing it to make bread.

But Lord Justice McCowan said that even on a broad reading of the policy, it required the ring to be kept either in a locked safe or within sight, reach and attention of the wearer.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Potter agreed that Mrs Stern's appeal against Judge Hague's decision be dismissed. Mrs Stern, who was ordered to pay the costs of the action, was not in court.



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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS

MPs mock Anon's Tribune vision of anti-Blair coup

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE left-wing weekly *Tribune* is planning to offer further column inches to Cassandra, the "senior" Labour MP who made a vitriolic attack on Tony Blair yesterday and predicted a plot to ditch him.

The trail at Westminster of the self-effacing scribe went hot and cold yesterday and Mark Seddon, *Tribune*'s Editor, blocked all attempts to secure the name of the author. He or she would be writing regularly, Mr Seddon said, although not every week. As with the media's original Cassandra, in the *Daily Mirror*, the Tories would often be on the receiving end.

Mr Seddon, who admitted that he and his journal were completely out of sympathy with the Blair "project", said: "It says something about the way the leadership runs things that people feel they cannot put their name to things like this."

Most Labour MPs and leadership officials dismissed the article yesterday as the act of a malcontent who had failed to prosper under Mr Blair. It was impossible to find anyone at Westminster who accepted Cassandra's scenario of Labour ditching its leader within months of its first election victory for 23 years.

However, it was felt that he or she had identified a number of the issues that were worrying MPs as the election approached, such as tensions between members of the Shadow Cabinet, differences on taxation and Europe and the alienation of the trade unions.

The Labour Party has been soft-hearted towards its leaders. While the Tories have removed leaders once they have served their purpose, Labour has been prepared to stick with likely losers rather than force them out. The very idea that Mr Blair would be vulnerable so soon after breaking through stretches the credulity of most observers.

In any case, the constitutional hurdles to a challenge would appear almost insurmountable. Under party rules, in government there can be a leadership contest only if the party conference supports such a move by card vote. Then a challenger would have to have the nominations, with names, of 20 per cent of the parliamentary party.

The writer claimed: "Behind the façade of unity and discipline the reality is that Tony Blair's position as leader of the Labour Party is weaker than any leader in memory." Mr Blair, the column said, was out of step with MPs, even those who had backed him for the leadership, was in a minority in the Shadow Cabinet on central issues and had "squandered" the traditional support of the union barons.

"This is Blair's weakness. He knows he can ignore his habitual [hard left] Campaign Group critics but is unaware of just how widespread is the dissatisfaction and outright anger at the style of his leadership and policies among those MPs who put him in the leadership," the column said.

"Starting with the anger over the choice of a school for his son and running up to the expensive irrelevance of the *Road to the Manifesto* I have never known Labour MPs to be so bitterly and personally critical of their leader."

However, the prediction that Mr Blair could become the "shortest-serving Prime Minister of this century", ousted by a "palace coup", drew laughter and ridicule.

The search for the culprit proved fruitless. The finger was pointed first at Brian Sedgemore, who contributes to *Tribune*, but he denied that the article was not by him, adding that it was "boringly written". Mr Sedgemore, along with other Labour dissenters in the frame who were contacted by *The Times*, also said he did not agree with with Cassandra's conclusions; some, however, supported the attack on the leadership style.

Denzil Davies, a former minister, also mentioned as the possible author, told *The Times*: "Not me, guv. I always sign my articles." Backbenchers, struck by the wildly implausible nature of the scenario portrayed, also raised the possibility that the article had not been written by an MP at all.

Leading article, page 23

Blair tells Chirac of fears over currency

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN PARIS

TONY BLAIR gave the strongest indication yet that a Labour government would not join in the first wave of a single European currency as he spelt out a range of obstacles to monetary union.

The Labour leader told President Chirac of France, however, that he had not closed off the option entirely. He also admitted that Labour faced huge problems over public opinion, which was becoming increasingly anti-Brussels.

Mr Blair told M Chirac that Labour supported a single currency in principle but stressed that problems over meeting the economic convergence criteria could stop Britain joining in 1999. "Our options are genuinely open," he told the President. "The option of joining is not closed off. But I will not hide there are difficulties to that."

After a meetings with both President Chirac and Alan Juppé, the French Prime Minister, Mr Blair told journalists that a Labour government would only sign up to a single currency if it was in the interests of the British people and if economic convergence was sustainable.

Mr Blair reiterated the message later in a speech to French businessmen. "We will need convincing that economic conditions will allow it [a single currency] to succeed," he said. "Until these issues are resolved we will keep all options genuinely open."

BILL ALLEN

RAF Tornado F3s fly over Westminster Abbey watched, below left, by Lady Whittle, Sir Frank's widow

Tornados salute a soaring vision

THE man who gave the world the jet engine was honoured yesterday with a flypast over central London by a collection of new and old jet fighters. Four RAF Tornado F3s followed by two privately owned Meteors thundered low over Westminster Abbey after a thanksgiving service there for Sir Frank Whittle.

Sir Frank, who died in August aged 89, became the father of high-speed air travel when he invented the jet in 1930. But the innovation was greeted with a lack of enthusiasm and it was only when the Air Ministry discovered Germany's wartime interest that it backed Sir Frank.

Meteor jet fighters entered service in 1944 and Sir Frank always maintained they could have played a pivotal role years earlier if his invention had been supported from the outset.

The two Meteors taking part in the flypast are owned by Martin Baker, the company that produced ejection-seats for most of the world's air forces. During the service Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, said: "It is given to few people, and even fewer in their own lifetime, to open up new horizons for their fellow human beings.

"This is what Frank Whittle did by paving the way for popular air travel on a scale that few people thought possible at the time. This practical realisation of a soaring vision is surely the very essence of genius."

Service, page 24

Sir Frank Whittle

Mayhew welcomes Sinn Fein approach

BY NICHOLAS WATT

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW breathed new life into the Northern Ireland peace process yesterday when he made his most conciliatory speech about Sinn Fein since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire.

In a wide-ranging address to business leaders in Manchester, the Northern Ireland Secretary made clear that ministers would respond favourably to a renewed IRA truce. Sir Patrick also hinted that the gap between Sinn Fein and the Government over the terms for a new ceasefire is narrowing when he welcomed a speech by Martin McGuinness, the leading republican, delivered on Thursday night.

Sir Patrick's speech to the Manchester Luncheon Club — five months to the day after an IRA bomb devastated the city centre — comes amid intensive efforts to restore the IRA ceasefire. John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, has been shuttling between Gerry Adams and British ministers.

Mr Hume and Irish Government sources last night welcomed Sir Patrick's comments. Nationalists were also encouraged. Mr McGuinness had called for inclusive talks and for Britain to lift preconditions on Sinn Fein's entry into the negotiations, most notably the demand that the IRA must disarm during discussions.

Sir Patrick said he agreed "wholeheartedly" with Mr McGuinness that negotiations were the only way forward, but he insisted that the IRA would have to restore its ceasefire before Sinn Fein could join the talks. "That must mean dependably repudiating the bomb and the bullet and establishing a definitive commitment to peaceful methods."

The Northern Ireland Secretary noted Mr McGuinness's comments that the issue of arms would have to be addressed to the satisfaction of all parties at the talks.

Underlining the Government's favourable response, he said: "Martin McGuinness says that if the conflict is to be ended permanently, and I note his use of that word, all should embrace the process in good faith . . . That is our approach, building on the rocks of democracy and consent."

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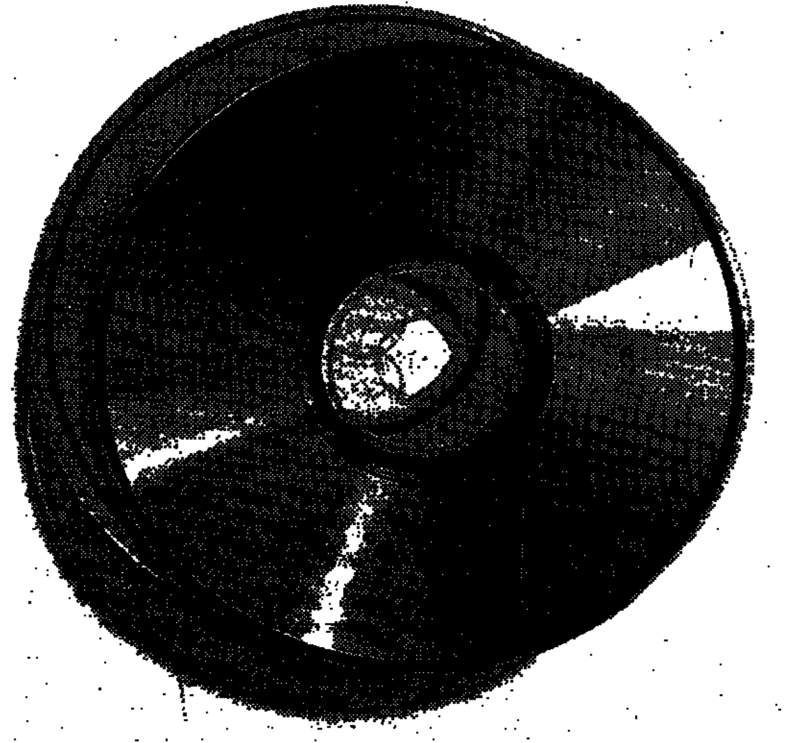

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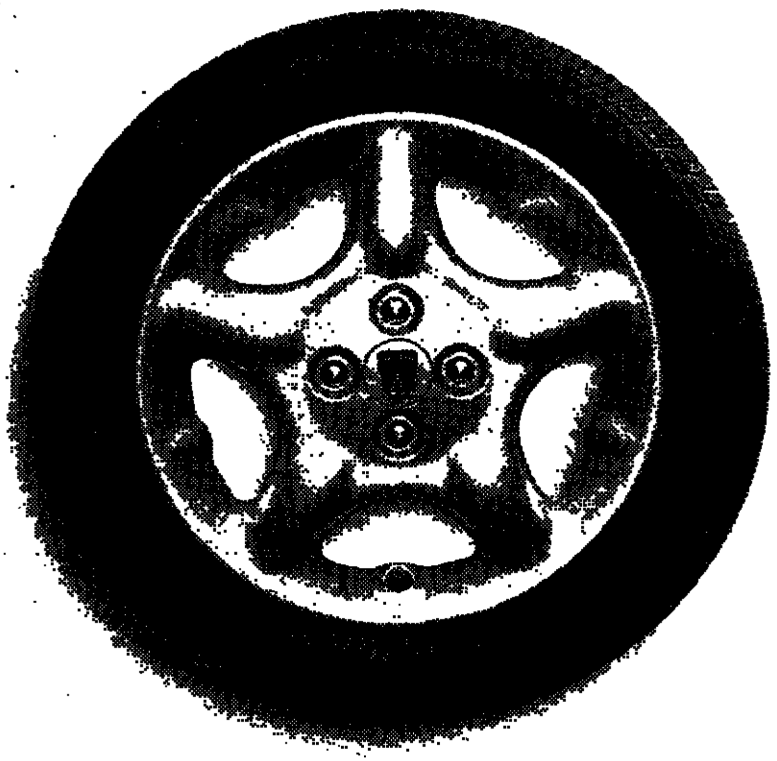

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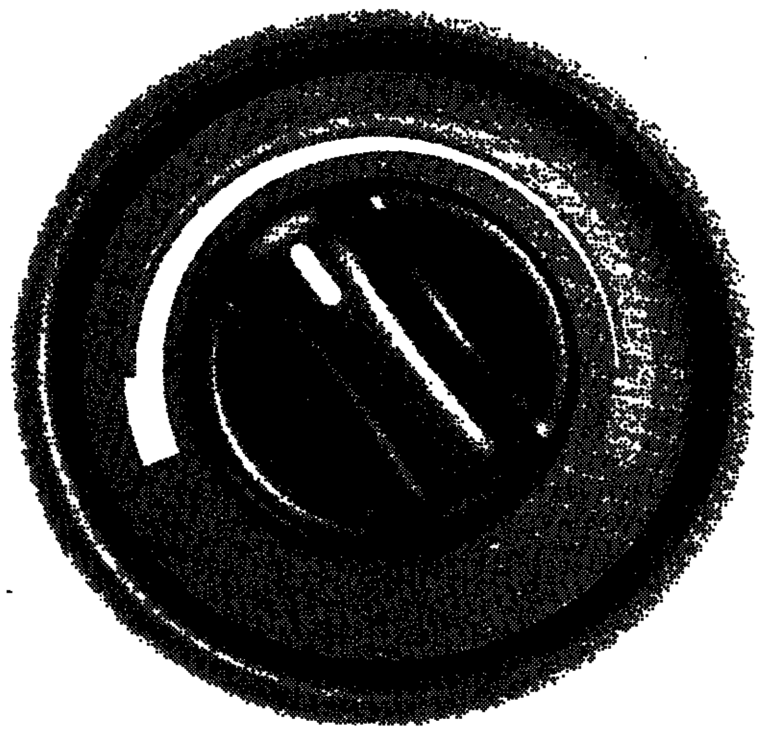

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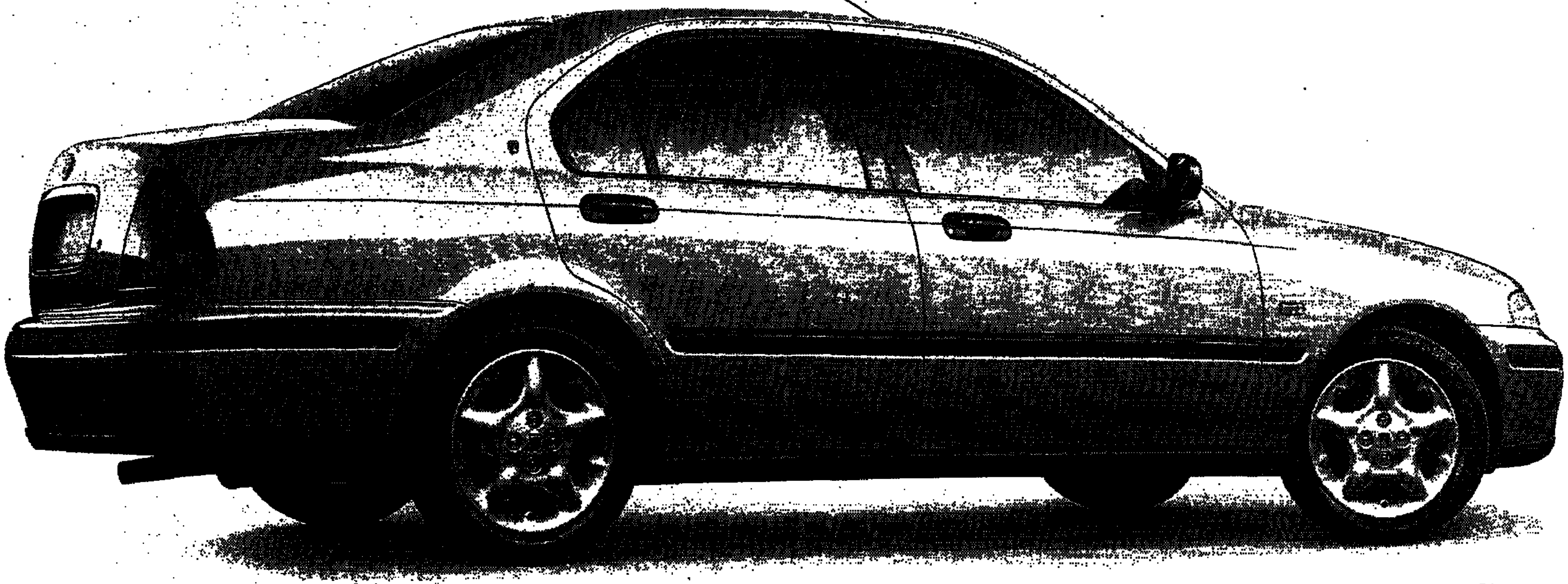

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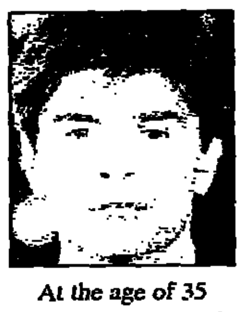
THE SUNDAY TIMES

BOY GEORGE



At the age of 35 — five of them working for Bill Clinton — *George Stephanopoulos* confesses that he is a burn-out case and is *looking for a new job.*. Touted as a key figure in the Labour party election campaign, he gives a frank account of the bruises and battles of his White House years to David Remnick, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Planners take the strain as architects reach for the sky

By Marcus Binney

A RACE to change the skyline of London has intensified with a dramatic proposal to remodel one of the tallest City blocks with a glass spire and a cantilevered restaurant. There are now so many major building applications that planning officers struggling to cope with the sheer bulk of paperwork have named this period of the capital's architecture the Forklift Truck Era.

The latest plan is by the Spanish engineer-architect Santiago Calatrava, who wants to remodel the 34-storey Britannic Tower, currently the home of British Petroleum. He said: "I am trying to follow the tradition of the City of London, which was long dominated by a series of exotically shaped towers which enriched the skyline from a great distance."

It would be a rival landmark to the Millennium Tower, planned as the City's tallest structure by Sir Norman Foster, who beat Sr Calatrava to the contract for the rebuilding of the Berlin Reichstag. Sr Calatrava's plan includes the addition of a sculptural glass spire, counter-balanced by a restaurant that would hover over the building like a giant diving board. Britannic Tower stands just to the east of the Barbican.

Paul Collier, a colleague of Sr Calatrava, said: "We will strip off all the existing cladding, retaining only the core structure and the concrete floors. The new cladding will be in white aluminium and pale blue-green glass."

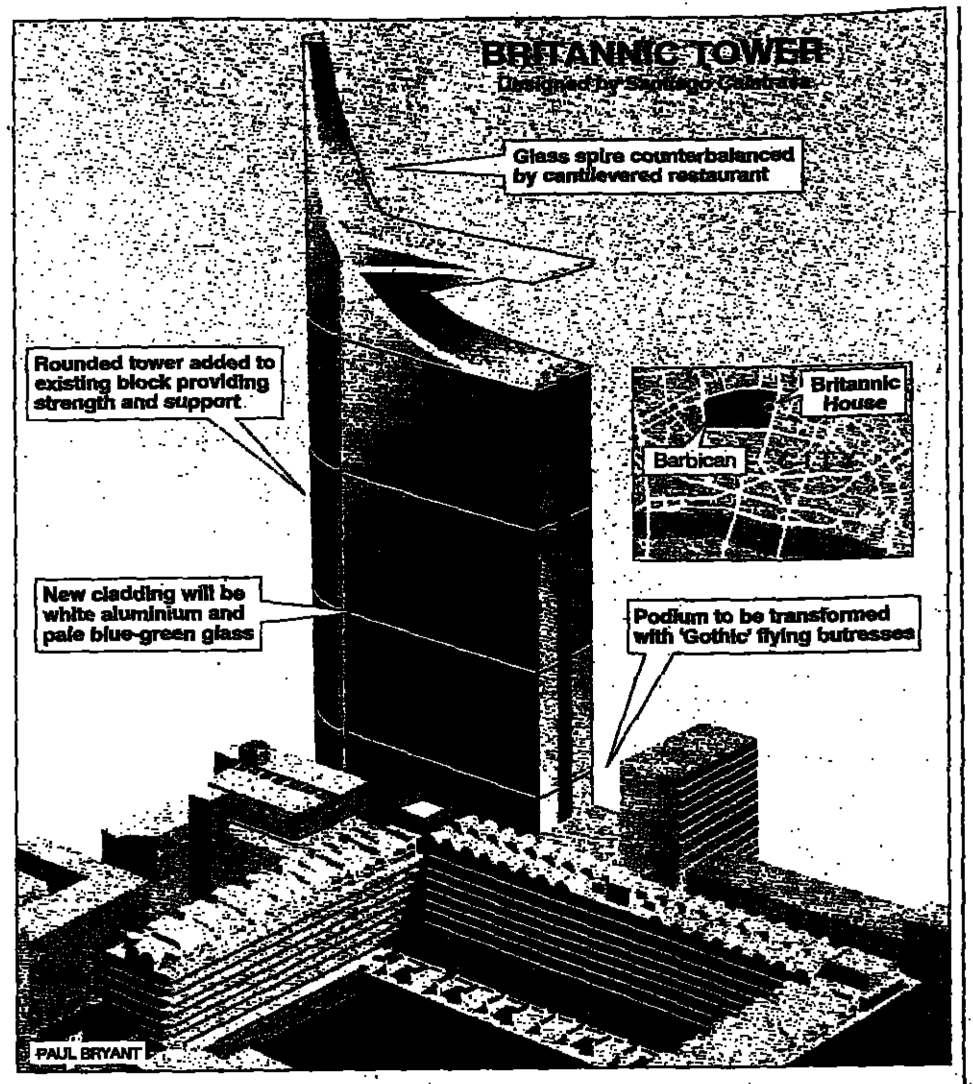
A rounded tower would be added at one end of the existing slab block, tapering to a spire, helping to provide the strength to support the huge restaurant deck.

The proposals have been drawn up for the Wates City development. Peter Rees, the City of London planning officer, said: "New buildings by the world's leading architects demonstrate the City's position as the world's pre-eminent financial centre. The remodelled tower does not affect any protected views of the City or St Paul's, but tall buildings are a sensitive issue and we will consult widely.

"In my view, there are really only two possible views on high buildings in London. Either there should be none at all, or they should be concentrated in one place, the capital's central business district.

"The City planning office has such an influx of applications that we call it the Forklift Truck Era: eight thousand drawings have just come in for Sir Norman Foster's proposed Millennium Tower."

Sr Calatrava, who is trained as both an engineer and an architect, has been hailed as a new Eiffel. When the Department of Transport rejected his design for an elegant bow-truss bridge, spanning the Thames in a single leap at the proposed East London crossing, there was widespread outcry.


BRITANNIC TOWER
Designed by Santiago Calatrava
Glass spire counterbalanced by cantilevered restaurant
Rounded tower added to existing block providing strength and support
Britannic House
Barbican
New cladding will be white aluminium and pale blue-green glass
Podium to be transformed with 'Gothic' flying butresses

PAUL BRYANT

Nigel Benn remanded on assault charge

The boxer Nigel Benn appeared before London magistrates yesterday charged with causing grievous bodily harm. Mr Benn, 32, the former world super middleweight champion, had spent the night in cells at Bow Street police station after surrendering to police.

The charge relates to an incident at Legends Nightclub in Mayfair, London, on September 29. Mr Benn was remanded on conditional bail until December 27. He was told he must put up a surety of £50,000.

Ferry to rescue

Two fishermen who spent the night adrift in a dinghy after their boat sank were rescued by the crew of a cross-channel ferry. The men, who were treated for exposure, were spotted from the Portsmouth-bound *Pride of Le Havre*, 20 miles off the French coast.

Murder charge

Andrew McKinlay, 23, unemployed, from Plymouth, was remanded in custody charged with the murder of Nicola Parsons, 18, a care assistant. Her body was found in a disused kindergarten building in Plymouth in July. She had been raped and strangled.

Stone vandalised

A memorial to three UDR soldiers murdered by the IRA near Castlewellan, Co Down, in 1980, put up earlier this month, has been wrecked by vandals. Irene Cochrane, mother of one of the men, Jim Cochrane, had fought for 13 years for the stone.

Hammer attack

A nursery nurse was hit over the head with a hammer after disturbing a burglar. She had just arrived at Benson Infants and Junior School in Winson Green, Birmingham, when a youth set upon her and snatched her handbag. She was not seriously hurt.

School cleared

Castleton Primary School in Castlemilk, Strathclyde, was cleared after a gas mains fractured, police said. The surrounding area, which includes four blocks of flats, was also evacuated as a precautionary measure, a fire brigade spokesman said.

Prefabs endure

Twenty-six postwar prefabs, made from scrapped aircraft, have been saved from demolition in Gloucester because tenants want to stay. The city council has spent £360,000 improving the aluminium bungalows after a survey indicated no structural problems.

Fiennes sets out on solo Antarctic record race

THE race to become the first man to cross Antarctica on foot, alone and unsupported, began yesterday. First off at 5am was the British adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

His three competitors, Marek Kaminsky from Poland, Borge Ousland from Norway and Ho Young Hoe from South Korea, set off separately later. The four had been waiting for three weeks at Punta Arenas in Chile for weather conditions to allow a ski plane to land.

From now on each will be unaware of the locations of the other participants. The first leg takes them along the crevasse-ridden coastline of Berkner Island. They will then head south, crossing the pole and eventually reaching the finishing line at Scott Base. The 1,800-mile journey will take three months.

Fiennes, 53, who narrowly failed in a similar journey with Dr Mike Stroud in 1993, has been in training for months to complete the trek, in which he is dragging 225kg of supplies and equipment across the ice in temperatures of -8C. He hopes to raise £3 million for the breast cancer charity Breakthrough by setting one of the last great polar records.

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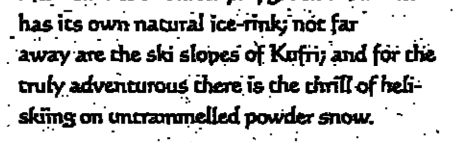
Himachal, Land of the Snows.

From December to February each year, a deep covering of snow turns Himachal Pradesh into a winter playground: Shimla has its own natural ice-rink; not far away are the ski slopes of Kufri; and for the truly adventurous there is the thrill of heli-skiing on untrammelled powder snow.



Why not combine skiing with a visit to Chandigarh, the city created by Le Corbusier in the 1950's as a dramatic vision of India's future. Or spectacular Dharamshala (adopted home of the Dalai Lama) and unspoilt Dalhousie, all nestling peacefully in the foothills of the magnificent Himalayas.

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India
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'Why was schizophrenic freed to kill my father?'

By Richard Duce

THE family of a man stabbed to death in the street by a schizophrenic with a history of violence is demanding an inquiry into his release from mental hospital five months earlier. Matthew Hooper stabbed Jack Trinder, a second cousin of the late comic, Tommy Trinder, 21 times in the chest.

The dead man's daughter, Vikki Bannon, speaking after Hooper was sent to Broadmoor indefinitely, said: "How many more times does this have to happen before something is done to take the dangerously mentally ill off the street? Does it need an MP's relative to be killed before anything changes?"

Mr Trinder, 55, a part-time scaffolder, was attacked as he left his local public house in Peckham, southeast London, early last Christmas Day morning.

Hooper had been admitted to the nearby Maudsley Hospital some eight months earlier and discharged in July. He had convictions dating back to 1981, some of them for violence: a short time before he was admitted he had stabbed his brother and attacked his elderly mother, Myrie. After leaving hospital, he was moved by social services into a flat in East Dulwich.

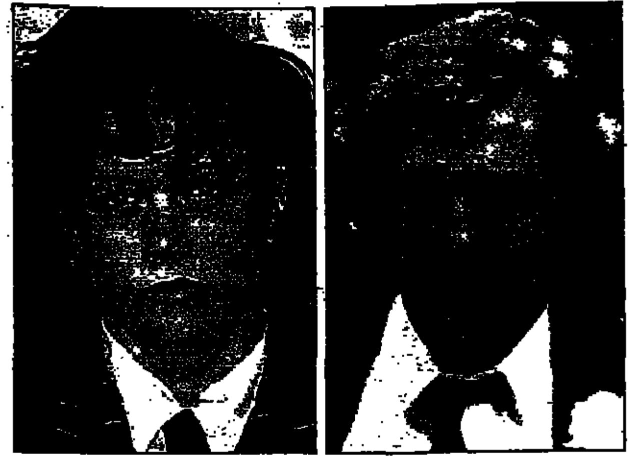
Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey that less than a month before Mr Trinder's death, Hooper had been arrested for possessing a lock knife in his car. After the unprovoked stabbing of Mr Trinder, he had shown a "degree of cunning" in trying to cover his tracks: he had set fire to his old Ford Fiesta, which had been seen by witnesses, grown a beard and moved in to a friend's flat.

Judge Hawkins, QC, told Hooper: "There was no possible reason for your attack on the unfortunate Mr Trinder." For the protection of the public he ordered that Hooper be detained in Broadmoor without limit of time. Hooper, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, had denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

After the case, Mrs Bannon, who was accompanied by her mother Barbara and brother Lee, said the family would be pressing for an inquiry. "They let him out of hospital. Any sane person would look at what he had done in the past and say that was not a safe thing to do. Any sane person *must* ask why this keeps happening. It has happened before and it will go on happening until mental health care is properly funded."

In a statement yesterday, the Maudsley Hospital, part of the Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust, said an internal inquiry had been held into the handling of Hooper's case. It concluded that his care had been "fully in line with trust and government policy on community care".

The hospital, which extended its deepest sympathy to Mr Trinder's family, had been in regular contact with Hooper after he was discharged. An inquiry was now planned by the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority.



Vicki Bannon is demanding an inquiry into events that led to the death of her father, Jack Trinder

MARK St GEORGE

Matthew Hooper is driven from the Old Bailey yesterday to a life in Broadmoor

Director took cash to pay for gambling

A COMPANY director who led a lavish lifestyle with thousands of pounds milked from her employers was jailed for two years yesterday.

Linda Lines, 43, took £137,000 over a 30-month period and spent it on holidays abroad and gambling in Las Vegas casinos, Jeremy Donne, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey.

Lines, a company secretary who earned £26,000 a year, was tempted after being given sole responsibility for looking after the books at the Hanover Trustee Investment Company. The company dealt with investments and pensions and worked closely with the stockbrokers Charles Stanley, the court was told.

Lines took money from the company by writing cheques to herself and her credit card companies. To cover the mounting losses, she sent bogus accounts to Charles Stanley asking for payments. Lines, a mother of two from Crouch End, north London, admitted false accounting and deception between 1993 and last year.

Pilot error caused fatal Nimrod crash

By a Staff Reporter

PILOT error was blamed yesterday for the crash last year of an RAF Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft during a flying display in Canada. All seven crew members died instantly.

The inquiry into the crash, in September 1995, concluded that Flight Lieutenant Dom Gilbert, 31, altered a display manoeuvre, causing the jet engines to stall. The aircraft was too low to be able to restart its engines and careered into Lake Ontario.

A review of Nimrod display flying has now been carried out. Future displays will be carried out by a single crew made up of instructors with improved training.

The Nimrod, in service with the RAF since 1969 and due to undergo modernisation, was seen to dip suddenly towards the lake while making a climbing turn at the Canadian National Exhibition. Four months earlier, a Nimrod R1 crashlanded in the Moray Firth and the crew was able to escape in a liferaft.

The inquiry into the Canadian crash disclosed that Flt Lt Gilbert, one of three Nimrod display pilots, was near the end of his first season, in which he had successfully flown 13 displays as well as several practice flights.

All was well until the aircraft entered its final manoeuvre and climbed past 950ft. Engine power was cut almost to idle and the speed dropped quickly to 122 knots, well below the recommended 150 knots, and the aircraft stalled and fell. The wreckage and the bodies of the crew, from 120 Squadron at the Nimrod base at RAF Kinloss in Grampian, were found in the lake by navy divers.

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VTV ★★★★ REVIEW OCT '96

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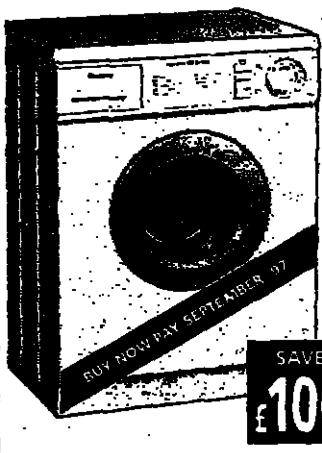

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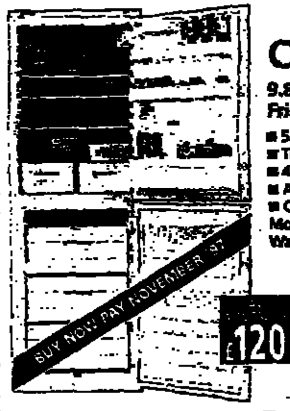

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Two lives in the margins, by Graham Greene the bastard

Graham Greene, 1904-91

By Damian Whitworth and Christopher Hawtree

A SERIES of jotted notes in the margins of books once owned by Graham Greene provide a poignant insight into his friendship with Evelyn Waugh.

The annotated books and a collection of letters, to be sold by Sotheby's on December 16, reveal how two of this century's greatest English men of letters — both Catholic converts — looked to each other for guidance in their work and comfort in their private lives.

The rare books, which were either owned by or associated with Greene, along with extensive correspondence from him, have been collected by a New York real-estate broker, Clint Smullyan, over 25 years. The collection, which features first editions from the Twenties and Thirties, most inscribed by the author, is expected to fetch about £270,000. One note by Greene, at the back of a proof copy of Christopher Sykes's biography of Waugh, describes the latter's loneliness. It reads: "E's hatred of the telephone. One could never ring him up. It was an intrusion on his privacy. A curious contradiction: when I lived in Albany he would turn up without warning . . . It was a period in my life when more than usually I disliked the unexpected visitor. And yet I never had the heart in his case to complain. He must be very lonely, I would think, if he came to me."

Greene recalls finding solace during a five-day stay at Waugh's house in Somerset with just his friend and a bottle of whisky for company. "My love affair was not making me happy. His silent sympathy."

The two had met at Oxford in the 1920s but became close only during the post-war controversies over Greene's Catholic novels. He sent his books to Waugh before publication and a copy of *The End of the Affair*, which was based on Greene's relationship with Catherine Walston, is heavily annotated. In particular, Waugh toned down what he regarded as over-ripe language.

The two writers did not have a lighthearted relationship. "Only on one occasion around 1945 did I have a drunken carousing with E. We both had good heads," Greene records in the Sykes biography. Greene's forthright opinions appear in another, scornful, annotation where Sykes describes Waugh's death "in the back parts" of the house: "E died in the lavatory — what's wrong with that? So did my father," writes Greene.

The agonies Greene endured during the writing process are clearly outlined in his correspondence with the Indian writer R.K. Narayan. In one letter Greene records how he was daunted by the risks he was taking with his latest book. He felt "horribly sterile — my only idea is one of frightening difficulty and hazard. When one has a family to support one hates to try something new." The book he was referring to was *Brighton Rock*. Later he talks of "a rather hack job, an Entertainment called *Our Man in Havana*. I am getting too old to boil the pot."

Also included in the sale is correspondence with the American journalist Gloria Emerson, who interviewed him for *Rolling Stone*. He writes to her of a gift she sent. "I still haven't opened the 94 per cent gin. Sheer cowardice. I shall have to drink it one day if only to use the bottle as a flower vase." A year later the gin is satisfactorily finished and after two years more: "I'd love some more of that green gin. It was a killer but I liked it." Whether drinking or not, he voiced some outlandish opinions. "There are two politicians whom I detest in the world today — one is Reagan and the other is Pope John Paul. People tried to kill both of them and alas failed."

A glimpse of the strains of carrying on affairs simultaneously with the rich and glamorous Catherine Walston and his first mistress, the penniless book illustrator Dorothy Glover, is seen in his inscription in a copy of *Nineteen Stories*: "For Dorothy Glover with so much love over so many years, 1939-1947, from Graham Greene the bastard."

Unlike Greene's personal papers, which were bought by Boston College, the current owner wants this collection broken up. "Little is on the market, so I hope that these can churn round again — while I sit at the back and weep," said Mr Smullyan.

Evelyn Waugh, 1903-66

Why Amy Johnson took flight to escape fame

By John Vincent

AMY JOHNSON, Britain's most famous woman pilot, was so disturbed by the publicity that greeted her exploits that she considered her career in this country to be ruined and pleaded to be "left in peace to fly".

Her feelings are disclosed in a previously unseen letter that forms part of an extraordinary archive of material relating to Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, one of the world's true pioneers of powered flight. It includes his aviator's licence, trophies, scrapbooks and correspondence.

In a two-page letter dated September 19, 1930, four months after she became a national heroine for her record-breaking solo flight to Australia, Miss Johnson tells Sir Geoffrey: "Publicity would in time drive me insane and I'm therefore taking the cowardly action of running away from it. I'm looking forward to having my new Puss Moth and then I hope to be off on my travels again.

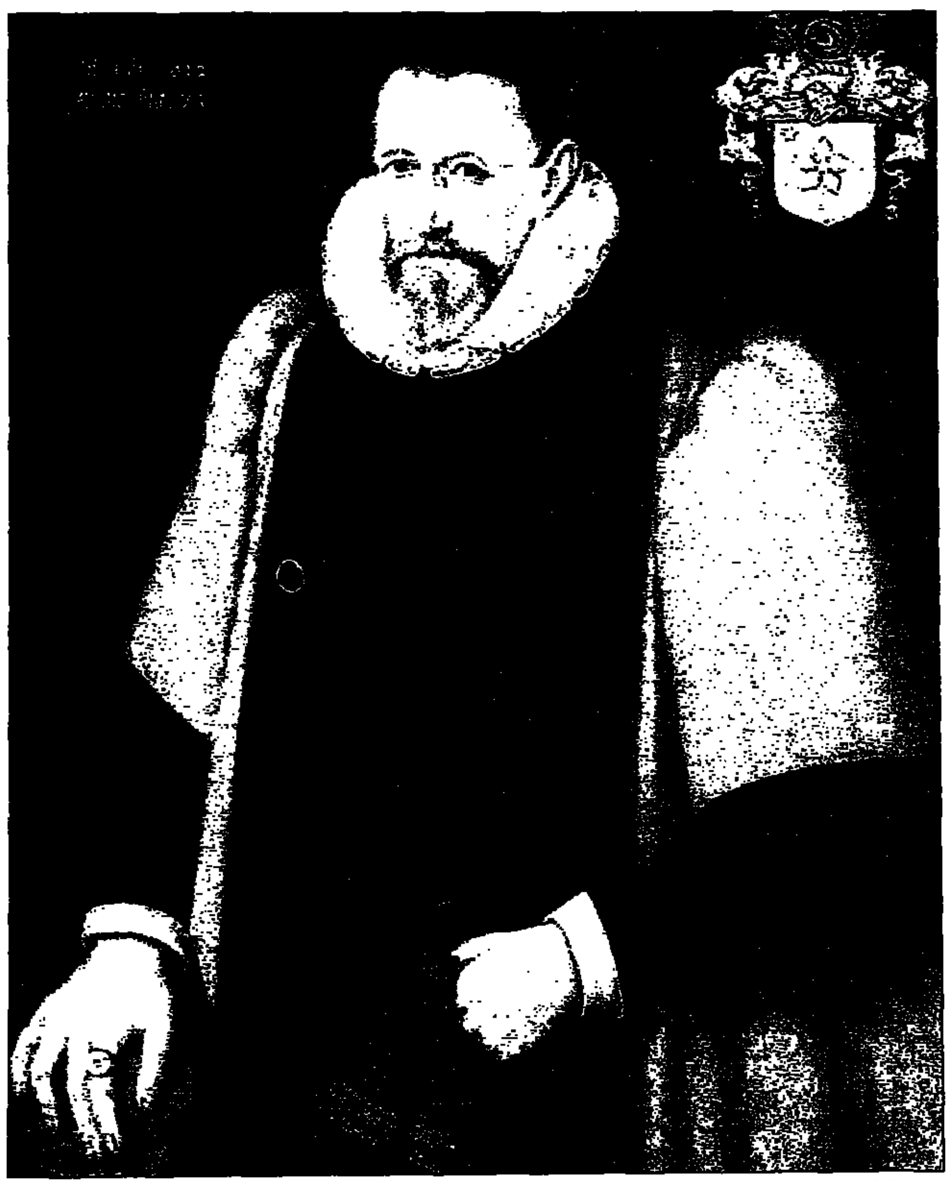
"There are not many people in the aviation world who understand my position and I feel that the unwanted and overdone publicity I have received has just about ruined any aviation career I might have had in this country. My one desire is to be left alone in peace to fly." Johnson died in an aircraft crash in 1941.

Sotheby's is offering the de Havilland archive at separate auctions at its Billingshurst, West Sussex, saleroom on November 23 and 28. Stephen Maycock, aviation specialist, said yesterday: "It's quite a startling letter. She had just completed an incredible feat of pioneering flying and one would have imagined she would have been prepared for the furore that followed. This letter shows she did not expect it and found the whole experience quite shattering."

The de Havilland archive, being sold by a private collector, is expected to fetch up to £40,000. A 1911 aviator's licence is estimated at up to £2,000; an England to Australia air race trophy from 1934 at £6,000; and the King's Cup for the 1933 round England race at £10,000. De Havilland's medals and awards, together with scrapbooks, are expected to fetch up to £12,000.

Sir Geoffrey's De Havilland Aircraft Company produced, among other legendary aircraft, the Tiger Moth, the Mosquito and the Comet, the first jet-powered airliner. A quiet, thoughtful man who shunned the limelight, he was made a CBE in 1934 and knighted in January 1944. Three years before his death in 1965 his lifelong contribution to aviation was acknowledged with the Order of Merit.

Johnson about to set off for Australia on May 5, 1930



The ring was clearly visible on the right hand in this 1611 portrait of Thomas Anguishe

Expert unearths secrets of ring lost for 300 years

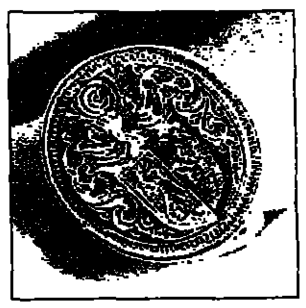
By A Staff Reporter

WHEN a landowner stumbled on a gold signet ring lying in a Norfolk field he was intrigued by the curious coat of arms. But when he examined the ring closely the mystery deepened: he discovered that the bezel bearing the coat of arms swivelled to reveal a skull on the reverse side.

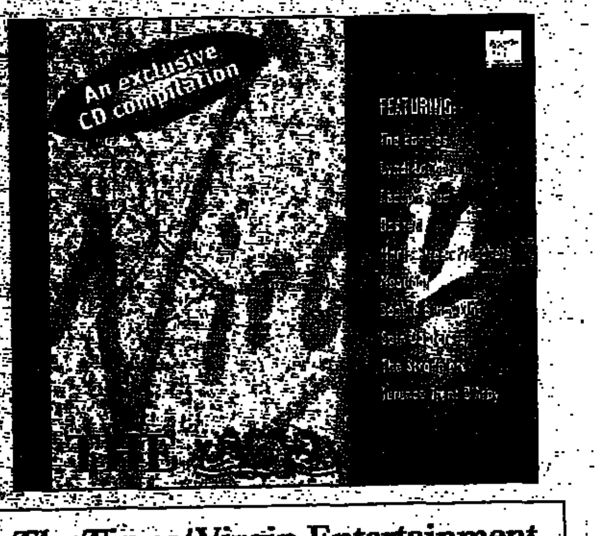
The ring's new owner — who wishes to remain anonymous — took his find to Christie's, where Charles Bingham-Newland set about tracing its history. He found that the arms — a serpent's crest and foliage in an elaborate border — belonged to 17th-century Mayor of Norwich.

Further detective work led Mr Bingham-Newland to Blackfriars Hall, Norwich, where he found a portrait of Thomas Anguishe — and there on the index finger of the right hand was the ring, which had lain lost for three centuries in a field near Foulsham, where Anguishe lived. With the help of the Norwich Castle Museum, more of Anguishe's story emerged. He was a cloth dealer in Norwich, becoming an alderman in 1595, sheriff in 1596 and Lord Mayor in 1611. In 1567, aged 29, he had married Elizabeth Thurstone. Although she bore him nine sons and three daughters, few survived childhood and it is thought that their fates explained the significance of the skull on the ring.

Anguishe's line appears to have got no further than the 19th century: the last descendant is believed to have been Catherine Anguishe, who once owned the portrait of her ancestor and died in 1837. A memorial to Thomas Anguishe is in St George's Church, Norwich and his memory remains alive in the Anguishe's Educational Foundation. The ring goes on sale at Christie's in London on December 12, and is expected to fetch up to £8,000.



The ring, found in a field



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MANIC STREET PREACHERS *From Despair To Where*
DEACON BLUE *Real Gone Kid*
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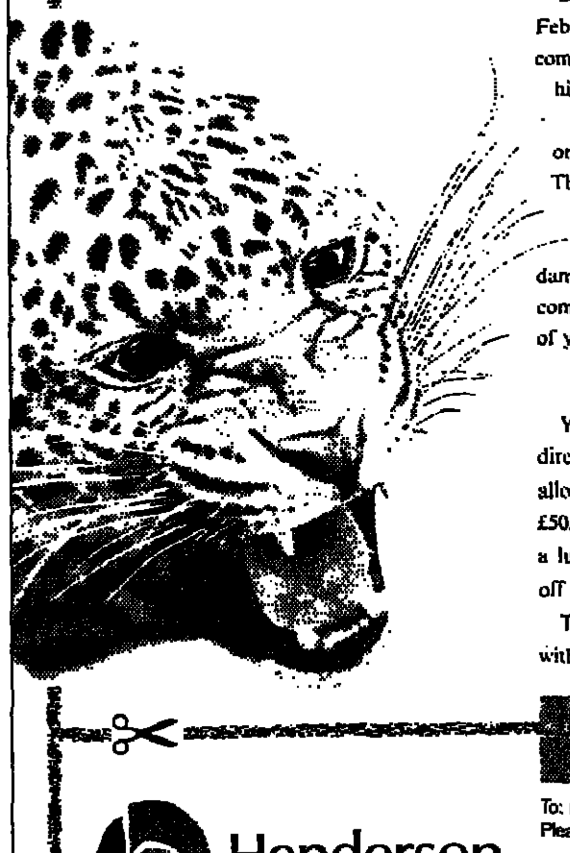

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Society must uphold human dignity and generosity of spirit

Credo

The Right Rev Vincent Nichols

MY TEENAGE years were often marked by rows with my father, when I argued vehemently that he should give shelter to homeless men in our underused front room. He protested that his first duty was to his family's safety.

The two key principles of Catholic social teaching address this dilemma. We are held by the duty of solidarity. The poor are not someone else's problem: they are our brothers and sisters. Yet we must also recognise that, according to the principle of subsidiarity, some tasks can best, or even only, be carried out at a particular level in society. A family usually cannot care for the homeless in the way I suggested. But it can support the initiatives of, say, local authority, or voluntary bodies. The duty to ensure that help is given to those in need rests with individuals, local communities and the State.

The Common Good, the document published recently by the Roman Catholic bishops, puts forward a way of thinking about our common aims in society founded on the dignity of the human person. It supports the creation of opportunities for individuals to grow in self-reliance and generosity; it argues in favour of trade unions, to encourage partnership and to protect individual rights; it protests strongly against the destruction of human life in the womb, which contributes so much to the blunting of our social conscience. And the document contains a warning to election candidates: contempt for those who uphold the sacredness of human life will be deeply unacceptable to Catholics.

A single appeal lies at the heart of the document: "Public life needs rescuing from utilitarian expediency and the pursuit of self-interest." This may seem idealistic and unattainable. But the alternative is a society at risk of becoming ever more dehumanised, which gives priority to "technology over ethics, things over persons, and matter over spirit".

The bishops' appeal is profoundly spiritual, for there is an unease in Britain today, stemming from a spiritual vacuum, or at least a disorientation. How do we answer questions about the enduring purpose of our existence and the values which will bring us lasting satisfaction? Or must we simply pursue our pleasure, elevated at times, puzzlingly, by the experience of generous love or compassion?

This appeal cannot be issued in abstract terms. It has to be related to the realities of our common life. May I give two examples? There is, rightly, a call for less violence to be shown in the media. Yet the availability of such material is related to the deregulation of the media industry. Left to themselves, market forces will produce both good and evil effects. The result is a steady supply of cheap "video nasties". To improve standards will inevitably require some restriction on the free market. How this is best achieved is for politicians to work out. That is what makes politics both a difficult task and, when motivated by a search for the common good, a noble calling.

At each point, then, this appeal asks that we go beyond expediency and self-interest. Generosity of spirit is essential in fashioning a society which is pleasant to live in. Such generosity is already present in our society but insufficiently encouraged and rewarded. For many, this appeal to human dignity and the common good is rooted in faith in God. Working out the implications for our common life is an imperative of faith. There is no alternative.

☐ *The Right Rev Vincent Nichols is Roman Catholic Bishop in North London.*

Bishops admit that some priests do not keep vow of celibacy

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

ROMAN Catholic bishops yesterday made an unprecedented admission to the Pope that not all their priests were succeeding in keeping their vows of celibacy. In a statement to Pope John Paul II, the bishops of England and Wales say: "We are conscious of shortcomings in the living out of the obligations of priestly celibacy of our dioceses."

The admission is surprising given that, although the Church has suffered two recent blows regarding celibacy with the much-publicised cases of Dr Eamonn Casey and the former bishop Roderick Wright, neither was in England or Wales. Insiders insist that when the priests held their recent national conference, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, the Pope's ambassador to the Court of St James, refused to discuss celibacy. At a private meeting at the conference in Birmingham he dismissed the issue because he considered it was not a problem, according to a source.

However, the church was shocked this week by the case of Fr Adrian McLeish, the Durham priest jailed for six years for indecently assaulting the sons of parishioners. Police discovered a large collection of Internet paedophile pornography when they raided his presbytery.

Barbarito: refused to discuss celibacy

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, is looking into allegations by a woman married to a former priest that a number of clergy in a religious order are involved in relationships with women.

However, in their message to the Pope, sent to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, the bishops do not refer specifically to the scandals. Instead, they send him their greetings and say: "We appreciate your constant encouragement and your steadfast upholding of the value of celibate chastity as normative for the ordained priesthood. This is indeed a calling which is not easily understood by our contemporaries and yet it is a witness sorely needed in our society."

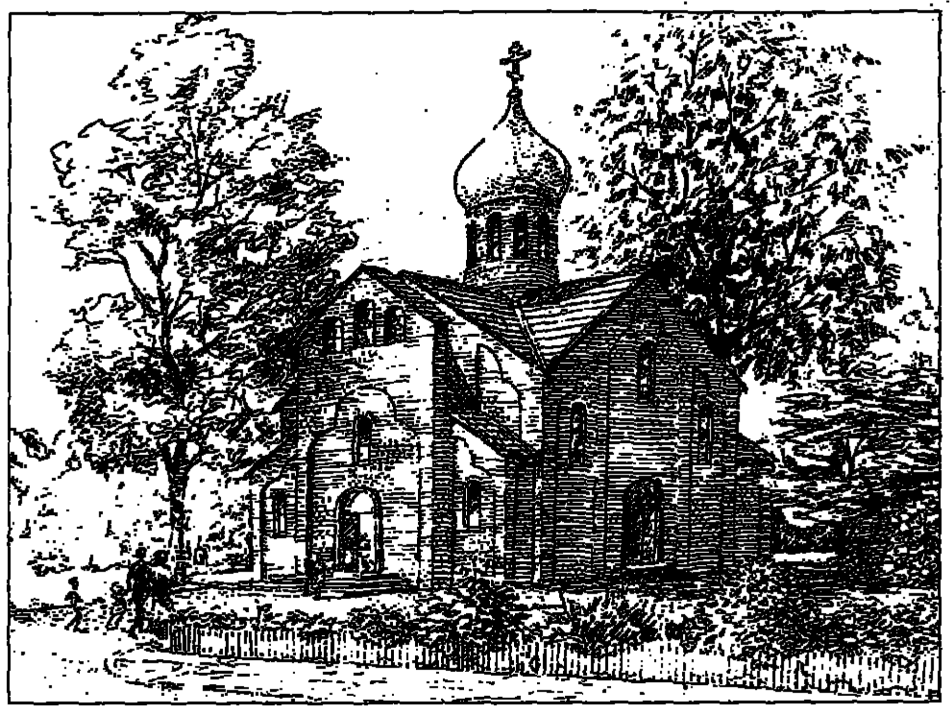
Although the Pope has recently granted dispensation for married former Anglicans to be ordained Catholic priests, the bishops say: "We also appreciate your insistence that when considering the institution of the ordained ministry the primary responsibility of the church is that of absolute fidelity to the mind and practice of Christ."

The bishops refer also to abortion: "The prevalence of abortion in our countries is a shameful scandal. We assure you of our determination to work to create those conditions in which the repeal of abortion legislation will be increasingly recognised as a moral obligation."

Mgr Arthur Roche, general secretary of the bishops' conference, said the admission that clergy were breaking their celibacy vows would not be a surprise to the Pope. He said: "The Pope and the bishops of England and Wales are realists. I have read in various publications the difficulties of priests as well as bishops.

"Our statement is a simple statement of fact, and a very laudable fact from our point of view, that we do very much see priestly celibacy as being a normative part of the ordained ministry. It is the endeavour of every priest to remain as close as he can in an authentic way to the life of Christ."

At your service. Weekend, page 14


A dome from home: how the planned Russian Orthodox cathedral will look

Prince supports landmark of faith

THE Prince of Wales has given financial and spiritual support to plans to erect Britain's first purpose-built cathedral for the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The cathedral, for a church until recently known as the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, will be in the Russian *Pskov* style, with its dramatic cupola visible from the M4 Chiswick flyover.

The Prince, who has said that he would wish to be known as "defender of faith" rather than the faith, was also a keen supporter of the Hindu community's new, multi-pinnacled temple in Neasden, where he made a highly publicised visit. Work on the latest religious landmark is expected to begin in the spring. More than £400,000 has been raised and an application has been made to the Millennium Fund.

In a letter to Count Tolstoy, chairman of the fundraising appeal, the Prince wrote: "I was fascinated to hear of your plans for what is clearly a very exciting project. I do wish you and all the congregation well in your efforts and I am sending you a small donation as a token of my best wishes."

Since the revolution, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad has been separate from the Russian Orthodox Church, which has a cathedral, a former Anglican church, in Ennismore Gardens, southwest London.

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صورة من الأصل

Peking plays at democracy over choice of colony council

HONG KONG COUNTDOWN

Jonathan Mirsky watches the hushed selection of the new pro-China ruling class

SEVEN *months* before Hong Kong's return to China the atmosphere of the Great Hall of the People was evoked *in the* colony yesterday.

The cream of the business community was gathered at *the first* meeting of the selection committee which will elect both Peking's chief executive to succeed *Chris* Patten, the Governor, and the 60 members of a Provisional Legislative Council, which will replace the Legislative Council elected last year.

Most of those picked to attend *yesterday* will play roles in the post-1997 administration and fell quickly into Peking's way of doing things, sitting silently as the spectacle unfolded beneath a large, red spotlight seal of the People's Republic of China. Obediently, they supported Peking's choice for the post of chief executive.

Next month the group will choose a second legislative council and from January 1, Hong Kong will have parallel governments, with some members sitting on both councils and debating conflicting legislation.

Yesterday's meeting was held in a vast convention centre where usually international toymakers, jewellers and fast-food manufacturers exhibit their wares. Row after row of tightly-packed tables — set with white cloths, drinks and writing materials — stretched from from one side of the hall to the other and almost its entire length. At the front was a raised dais. Behind *it was the red seal with its* large gold star and five smaller ones, each representing the main social classes, such as "the national bourgeoisie".

Hundreds of police patrolled outside the building and *dozens of plainclothes* security men stood inside. Mr Patten is rarely accompanied by more than a handful of bodyguards.

The 400 delegates, all from Hong Kong and picked by Peking, included the tycoons who control most of the colony's wealth, a few Buddhist monks, Sir *David* Akers-Jones, who has acted as Governor and is now firmly in Peking's camp, and two members of Mr Patten's Executive Council, the inner cabinet, who are prepared to vote for *the Provisional Legislative* Council which Mr Patten and Malcom Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, insist will have no legal standing. There was also a sprinkling of members of the present Legislative Council.

After a hush, the praesidium filed onto the dais, led by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, and Lu Ping, the head of the State Council's Hong Kong and *Macau affairs office*. Mr Qian was paying his first official visit but snubbed Mr Patten, as do all visiting dignitaries from Peking.

There followed opening remarks in the orotund style *favoured in Peking*, and then Mr Qian and Mr Lu spoke. Not long ago, Mr Qian, a supposed moderate in the Chinese leadership, issued a warning that after 1997 there could be no more meetings in *Hong Kong* to commemorate the Tiananmen Square crackdown, nor could the press criticise China's leaders personally. Mr Lu has often said much the same thing.

Mr Qian had been greeted by protesters on his arrival in the colony. Police scuffled with about 100 demonstrators led by members of the Legislative *Council when they blocked* access to the convention centre, where Britain will formally return Hong Kong to China in 228 days' time.

About 30 police surrounded a handful of student activists and herded them towards barricades where other protesters were sequestered. Many had spent the night on a protest fast *outside* the building.

Inside the hall, Mr Qian told the 400 delegates that this was the beginning of real democracy in Hong Kong, and denied that the choice of chief executive had been preordained in Peking . Mr Lu explained how the chief executive and the *Provisional* Legislative Council would be selected.

Both speeches were punctuated by the subtly orchestrated bursts of applause that regularly echo through Peking's Great *Hall. In* the afternoon, the delegates indicated by their preliminary votes that Tung Chi-*hwa*, the *shipping* magnate whom President Jiang Zemin had gone out of his way to greet in January, *will be Hong Kong's next chief* executive.

The former Chief Justice, T. L. Yang — favoured by most Hong Kong residents — and Peter Woo, a rich entrepreneur, both scraped through to the next round. Simon Li, a retired High Court judge, was dropped. As signalled by President Jiang, *Mr Tung will be elected in a* second vote on December 11.

The occasion demonstrated how easily Hong Kong's famously individualistic notables — who in crowds are chatty, genial, and in constant motion — can be *made to sit in silence*, applaud on cue, and insist after the vote that each had obeyed his conscience. The same claims are common in the National People's Congress after it rubber-stamps decisions.

Court turns down Wang's appeal

Peking: Wang Dan, the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy leader jailed for 11 years for plotting to overthrow the Chinese Government, was given no chance to speak yesterday when a court here considered his appeal. In less than ten minutes, it was rejected. *His mother,* Wang Lingyun, said that only the judge spoke, to uphold the October 30 decision. *(AP)*

C Y YU/REUTER

Hong Kong police lead away a demonstrator against the meeting held by Qian Qichen

'Racist' executives cost Texaco dear

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TEXACO, the oil company, is struggling to clear its corporate name after allegedly rac*ist remarks were made by two* of its executives.

Court documents accuse two managers of laughing over the word "nigger" and of lampooning the African-American end-of-year festival *known* as Kwanzaa.

The episode has sent Texaco into a major damage-limitation exercise and has generated controversy across the United States, with calls by black politicians to boycott Texaco's petrol stations. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People has urged investors to *drop Texaco stock*.

The basis of the controversy is a tape recording of remarks made in 1994 by the two white executives, Richard Lundwall, a finance manager who has since left Texaco, and Robert Ulrich, former company treasurer. In the indistinct recording they appear to be discussing the number of public holidays *employees* are entitled to take. Mr Lundwall appears to say: "Now we have two friggin' national anthems." *Mr Ulrich replies:* "I'm still having trouble with Hanukkah [the Jewish festival]. Now we have Kwanzaa . . . [expletive] . . . niggers, they [expletive] all over us with this."

Texaco has offered a different version. The company claims that Mr Ulrich said: "I'm still struggling with Hanukkah, and now we have Kwanzaa. I mean I lost Christmas, poor St Nicholas, they [expletive] all over his beard."

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that court documents allege that a Texaco *company lawyer tried to order* the destruction of evidence related to the incident.

The matter has cost Texaco dear. *Its public image has* taken a terrible battering, with black leaders chopping up Texaco credit cards on television and phone-in programmes reflecting widespread agitation about the alleged *racism*.

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Rwanda calls on UN to disband relief force

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

AS REFUGEES in their hundreds of thousands poured into Rwanda last night, the Rwandan Government said there was no longer any need for the multinational force being prepared by Britain and other countries under a United Nations mandate.

Gideon Kayinamura, the Rwandan Ambassador to the UN, said the exodus of refugees from the Mugunga camp made the proposed multinational force unnecessary. He suggested that Rwanda might no longer be ready to cooperate with the force, which plans to establish supply lines across the country and establish an office in the capital, Kigali.

"The mandate of that force is no longer relevant because of the unfolding positive developments," Mr Kayinamura said. "The much talked-about humanitarian tragedy of the Rwandan refugees is now coming to an end. The international community is now mobilising resources, large amounts of money. We want

MANDATE

that money spent in Rwanda in terms of providing hospitals and medicine, resettling refugees, rather than putting it into military columns."

Zaire said yesterday that it would wage war on Burundi and Rwanda to defend its territory, which it said had been violated in the east by its two neighbouring states. "We are determined to wage a total war ... We have the means," Lokondo Yoka, Zaire's Deputy Foreign Minister, said on a visit to Belgium.

> ‘The much talked-about human tragedy of the Rwandan refugees is now coming to an end’

He said the towns of Uvira, Goma and Bukavu had been occupied by Burundian and Rwandan forces for almost two weeks. "The Banyamulenge, a so-called ethnic group, are just refugees from Rwanda," he said, referring to the rebel group which played a key role in capturing the towns. The multinational force sent to create safe corridors for humanitarian aid to refugees would be tolerated on Zairean soil only so long as it did not offer protection to Rwandans or Burundians.

The sudden return of hundreds of thousands of Rwandans caught the international community by surprise. Western diplomats said the Hutu extremists who controlled the camp at Mugunga, outside Goma, had apparently fled overnight after an offensive by Zairean Tutsi rebels.

The UN Security Council seemed ready to authorise the multinational force despite Rwanda's objections. Canada tabled a resolution empowering the use of "all necessary means" to deliver aid to the refugees in eastern Zaire and to facilitate their voluntary repatriation. The proposal also called for the creation of a UN peacekeeping mission to replace the multinational force in four months' time.

Canada said the multinational operation was "not intended to interfere with the balance of military forces in the area, nor to support the re-establishment of camps in which armed elements are able to operate".

Security Council diplomats noted that even if the bulk of the refugees in the Goma area were returning to their homes in Rwanda, other refugees remained in eastern Zaire.

One Western official said the changes on the ground could be taken into account at planning meetings in Stuttgart next week. Britain is asking that its 3,500-man contingent control Bukavu airport, in the South Kivu area, where there has been no mass return of refugees.

Simon Jenkins, page 21
Leading article and letters, page 22
Ogata interview, Magazine, page 57

ENRIC MARTI/AP

A Hutu cries over the body of his wife as refugees stream out of the Mugunga camp, heading for Rwanda

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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‘Dear God, we are about to die. Have pity on our souls’

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

HARROWING details have emerged from Zaire of the cold-blooded murder of four Spanish priests by a band of Hutu militiamen.

The priests, who belonged to the small Marist order, were hacked, shot and beaten to death at the Nyamirangwe settlement in Bugobe, six miles from Bukavu, 16 days ago. News of their deaths did not reach the outside world until last week.

The tragedy unfolded on October 31, shortly after the priests' Zairean staff escaped to safety in the settlement's only vehicle. The four missionaries, each of whom had spent over a decade in the country, chose not to leave Bugobe. It was an act of bravery, faith and folly.

Shortly after the staff's departure, one of the priests, 44-year-old Servando Mayor, spoke on the radio to his order's headquarters in Rome. He said: "Everyone has gone, including all the refugees. We are alone and expect an attack at any moment. If we haven't rung again by the evening, assume the worst."

The worst did happen. According to witnesses among the fearful Zairean peasants who happened to be in the vicinity, a group of Hutu militiamen, believed to have been members of the *Interahamwe*, burst upon the Marist settlement in the late afternoon.

Deaf to the pleas of the Spanish priests, the Hutu gunmen proceeded to destroy the radio set and much of the settlement.

The priests were kicked repeatedly, and hit with rifle butts. About an hour later they were attacked again with deadly intent. Peasants report that the four Marists were chopped about with machetes as they attempted to kneel and pray.

The cries of one priest resounded some distance away: "Dear God, dear God. We are about to die. Have pity on our souls." Shortly after, there was a burst of gunfire and then a chilling silence.

The attackers then dragged the mutilated bodies of the priests to a nearby well, dug by the Marists some months ago to provide water for the refugees.

One by one, witnesses say, the corpses were flung into the well, 40ft deep and only a yard wide at the mouth. The killers were later seen cavorting about the settlement wearing clothes that belonged to the dead priests.

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Military planners face nightmare mix of decisions

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

[illegible]

THE sudden and unexpected exit of Rwandan Hutu refugees from the camps in eastern Zaire back towards Rwanda presents those planning the multinational intervention force with a nightmare range of decisions.

On the face of it, the return of Rwandans to their homeland makes the challenge less awesome and the task less demanding for an outside humanitarian force. In London, Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office officials issued a warning against the temptation to leap to the conclusion that a force is no longer needed and that the refugee crisis is being resolved overnight.

The message from the Foreign Office, which kept in touch with other potential troop-contributing countries yesterday, was that planning was going ahead and a multinational force, with British participation, was still preparing to leave for Zaire.

"The situation could suddenly go the other way. It would only take a bunch of armed militia to open fire on departing refugees and the *withdrawal to Rwanda could* be reversed," a Ministry of Defence official said.

At Britain's Permanent Joint Headquarters, the new facility set up in the bowels of the Fleet headquarters at Northwood in northwest London, the range of options appeared to be changing by the minute as the situation on the ground in Zaire presented new and different challenges.

While the main concern — the large number of armed militia preventing the Rwanda Hutus from leaving the refugee camps in eastern Zaire — appeared to have been resolved temporarily, there was still perceived to be the need for a large-scale humanitarian aid mission.

The Ministry of Defence was working on the assumption that *the main objective of* the intervention force was to secure conditions that would allow the resumption of aid deliveries and the repatriation of refugees. "Active consideration" was also being given to the possibility of British troops being asked to disarm militia who interfered with aid deliveries.

While the ministry waited for the report from the 43-man reconnaissance party which arrived *in the region last* night, the two units on 72 hours' notice to leave, the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and 45 Commando Royal Marines, spent the day checking their equipment and receiving injections to counter the potential health hazards in Zaire.

The British force is expected to be run by the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Graeme Lamb, a former SAS officer.

While the troops are expected to use Nairobi as the initial entry point in Africa, because it has the facilities and infrastructure for dealing with a large influx of soldiers and equipment, the two key airfields in Zaire will be Goma and Bukavu. In Zaire, geography, climate, lack of infrastructure and disease combine to make the military planners' job a nightmare. There are few roads and railways are virtually non-existent. The rainy season has started, and roads become impassable. Dysentery, cholera and cerebral malaria claim thousands of lives and jeopardise humanitarian operations.

Advance party flies in to assess risks

By Michael Evans

[illegible]

A FORMER commander of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service began one of his most challenging tasks yesterday as he arrived in Nairobi at the head of a British reconnaissance party, before moving on to Zaire to assess the problems *that* lie ahead for the proposed multinational force.

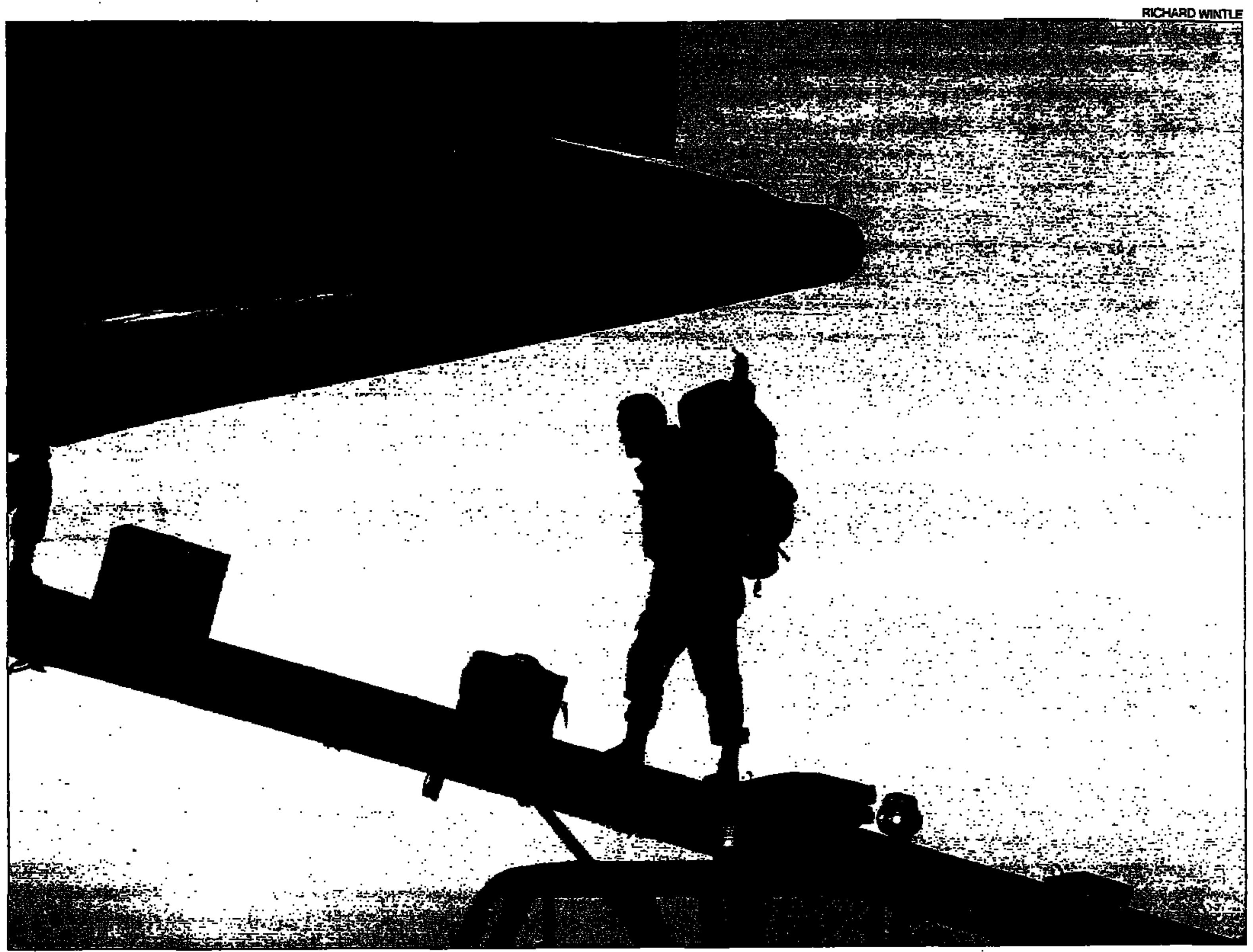
Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, now commander of Britain's new Joint Rapid Deployment Force, has only a few days in which to make judgments that will affect the size and composition of the British contingent. Accompanied by 42 specialists and staff officers, Brigadier Thomson will have to assess the threats that the British soldiers might face on the ground as well as the magnitude of the humanitarian task.

Even as he arrived at Nairobi the refugee crisis was evolving so dramatically that it is probable the brigadier will recommend a range of options when he returns to Britain next week.

Army sources said the key issues to be investigated by the reconnaissance party would include: the likely threats for British troops, suitable locations for tented camps, food stores, ammunition dumps and water supplies; the quality of the local infrastructure, including roads, bridges and communications and the transport that will be needed for the four-month tour.

Brigadier Thomson, who from 1980-83 commanded the Special Boat Service, the Royal Marines' equivalent of the SAS, joined the Royal Marines in 1963.

One of his jobs in Zaire will be to liaise with reconnaissance parties from other countries planning to send troops to ensure that they dovetail into a workable force.


RICHARD WINTLE

The first of the British reconnaissance party goes into an VC10 at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire yesterday at the start of the Zaire mission

Paris threatens Tutsi rebels with 'vigorous response'

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

FRANCE

TUTSI rebels who have threatened to open fire on French soldiers deployed in eastern Zaire must be made to back off by the Rwandan Government, officials in Paris said yesterday. They insisted that French troops would respond "vigorously" if they came under attack.

The Tutsi Banyamulenge rebels now controlling Goma and Bukavu airports accuse France of supporting Hutu extremists and have said they will resist French soldiers taking part in the multinational force.

Up to 2,000 French troops will initially establish a "security zone" around Bukavu airport to allow aid supplies to be flown in, officials said. "We are not going to take the airfield by force," a defence official said. "International pressure is being applied to Rwanda to tell the Banyamulenge, who do what Kigali tells them to do, to back off."

The rebels and Tutsi military *leaders* in Rwanda *hold* France responsible for the refugee crisis and claim that France's "Operation Turquoise" in 1994 was a ruse to enable many Hutus guilty of genocide to escape.

Defence officials here said *French troops would seek to* avoid any confrontation. Sources in Paris said French troops would be confined to securing the airport area and would probably not participate in missions behind Tutsi lines.

Tutsi antipathy towards French troops is reciprocated and government sources said that one of the principal reasons for French insistence on multinational intervention *was a fear of open hostilities* between Tutsi rebels and an all-French force.

The first contingent of French troops is likely to be drawn from rapid deployment units on permanent alert.

Congo battleground a focal point of Cold War

Richard Beeston sr, father of *The Times's* Moscow correspondent, reported from the Congo in 1960. He recalls the chaos of a country that was a Cold War battleground

THE latest outbreak of horrors in Zaire has a sense of déjà vu to those of us who covered the collapse of the Congo 36 years ago.

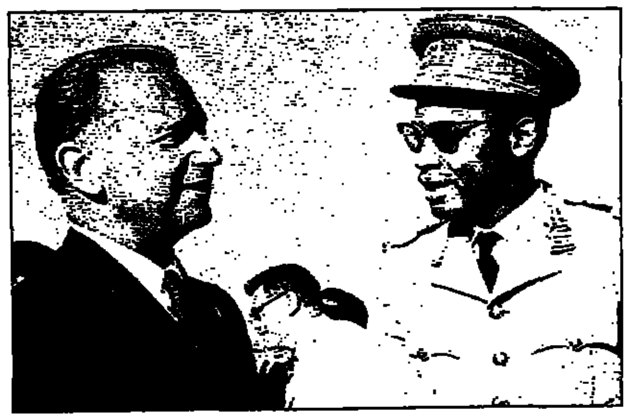
When I arrived in Léopoldville (later to become Kinshasa) as the *News Chronicle* correspondent, the Congo, in a state of chaos and anarchy, had become a focal point of the Cold War — a battleground for the heart of Africa.

Patrice Lumumba, the Congolese Prime Minister, a wild and *erratic postal* clerk, had become a hero of the Communist Bloc and the Third World. But he had just signed his own death warrant by appealing for Soviet arms and Czech *technicians* — and the CIA was out to get him.

In response to Lumumba's appeal the Soviet bloc had overplayed its hand, flying into Léopoldville 19 Ilyushin planes packed with Soviet and Czech arms, military advisers *and agents. But the* day I arrived things began to go badly for the Soviet Union and its champion Lumumba. On that day the United Nations, with the backing of Western intelligence agencies, had raised enough funds to pay the back wages of the mutinous Congolese Army which had driven out its Belgian officers and had had no pay since then.

That night I toured the bars of the African quarter of Léopoldville to find them full of drunken Congolese soldiers praising General Joseph Mobutu, their commander, for their payout. The general, a former clerk in the Force Publique, went on to become President Mobutu — one of the richest and most corrupt men in Africa.

Emboldened by his sudden popularity with his troops, General Mobutu announced his takeover of the Government and closed down the Soviet and Czech embassies. It was a coup for the American and British intelligence services working jointly to frustrate Soviet plans for Africa. One of the most active and effective figures on the Léopoldville scene at the time, who made her reputation in the Congo, was Daphne Park, the formidable MI6 agent there. Working as a diplomat, she was to be seen everywhere — a large bespectacled lady, usually with cigarette ash on her ample bosom.


The UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, greets a young General Mobutu in 1961

At the time of my arrival, three Congolese leaders — Lumumba, General Mobutu and Joseph Kasavubu — all claimed to be in charge of the Government and all held frequent press conferences to assert their claims. Covering these entailed crossing checkpoints of trigger-happy drunken soldiers. Hardly less fearsome were the white mercenaries nicknamed *Les Affreux* — the frightful ones, bearded, festooned with daggers and grenades. We in the press were working about 20 *hours a day, largely due to an* instrument of torture, the Léopoldville telex office. The telex was the only way of getting stories out and you had to bribe a small Congolese clerk with huge sums to get them out. A call could take anything up to 15 hours and, as we waited, the situation in the world outside would change out of all recognition.

In the midst of this chaos, I received a call from the *News Chronicle*. "*Is that Mr* Beeston?" said a voice. "I've been asked to tell you not to file tonight — the paper has just folded." Three months later I was back in the Congo for *The Daily Telegraph* — this time in the breakaway province of Katanga — a comparative oasis of peace where the President, Moïse Tshombe, served only the best champagne at his press conferences.

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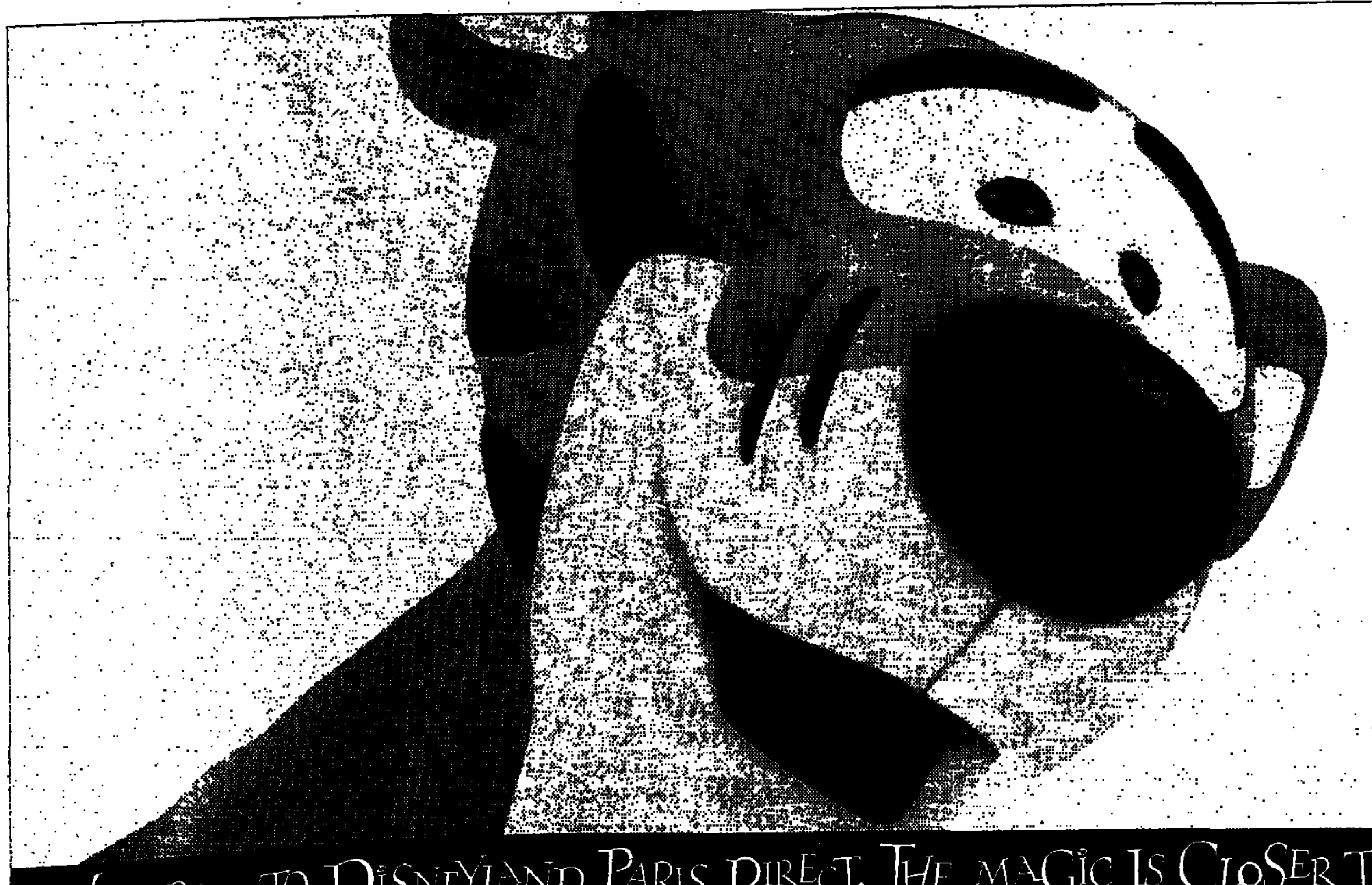

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Clinton pledges troops for new Bosnia force to prevent 'harvest of hatred'

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

PRESIDENT CLINTON last night abandoned plans to withdraw American forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina next month and announced that the United States would send 8,500 soldiers for a new international peacekeeping mission in the Balkans.

Drawing criticism from Republicans on Capitol Hill who accused Mr Clinton of reneging on last year's promise to Congress of a swift exit from the region, the President announced an agreement in principle for the United States to take part in a second Nato implementation force until June 1998.

"Where our interests are clear and our values are at stake, where we can make a difference, we must act and we must lead. Clearly Bosnia is such an example," Mr Clinton said. He also announced the decision to send up to 5,000 troops to Zaire and neighbouring Central African states to tackle the refugee crisis. "Neither will be free of risk, but I will do everything in my power to ensure that both missions are clear-limited and achievable before I give the green light."

Mr Clinton said the total number of American personnel in Bosnia would be reviewed every six months and cut by half by the end of next year. The new force is thought to consist of 30,000 Nato soldiers. The President said the military aspects of the Dayton accord, including the division of hostile forces and territory and the movement of refugees, had been a success. But he argued that civilian implementation of the peace settlement had failed to secure the fragile institutions of the fledgeling Bosnian state and America must offer its services if a "bitter harvest of hatred" was to be prevented. Republicans, insisting that President Clinton deliberately had delayed formal announcement of his decision until after his re-election, accused the White House of sending Americans into the line of fire without proper assessment of the consequences.

"Even as the President was speaking there were signs of a complete change in the Zaire situation," said Dan Coats, of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "Our troops should be committed as a last resort rather than a first resort."

Forced in his second term to become the foreign-policy President that he had spent his first four years attempting to avoid, Mr Clinton has tried to ensure that he has political cover for any eventuality. This has included a delay in the announcement of the senior foreign-policy posts in his new Cabinet. Mr Clinton had curtailed his Hawaiian holiday, which started yesterday, to concentrate on a new choice for Secretary of State.

☐ **Belgrade:** Bosnian Serbs said they were summoning President Izetbegovic of Bosnia to appear in court on war crimes charges in a move that diplomats said was meant to disrupt the Dayton accord. The charges include "ethnic cleansing" and killing Serb civilians and prisoners-of-war. *(Reuter)*

Paris strike falters

Paris: A transport strike over job losses and pay attracted little support yesterday and caused only minor disruption, although union leaders threatened more serious unrest in the coming weeks (Ben Macintyre writes). The Paris strike marked the first anniversary of the Government's attempt to overhaul the social security system.

Despite warnings of widespread chaos, most Métro and bus services were running normally.

Bhutto faces prison threat

Islamabad: The deposed Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, and other leading Pakistani politicians may face disqualification from holding public office for seven years, and a possible jail sentence on charges of corruption and misconduct under a new law (Zahid Hussain writes). The measure, approved by the caretaker Cabinet, will come into force next week.

Czechs in key Senate vote

Prague: Czechs voted for the second time this year in Senate elections, which are the key to the future of the minority centre-right Government. With surveys indicating many Czechs are sceptical about the need for the upper house, President Havel urged citizens to vote for the sake of stability. *(Reuter)*

Cousin stole wedding gifts

Harare: Takaruza Lazarus Marufu, 28, the "senior cousin" of President Mugabe's wife Grace, has been told by a judge that he is "a national embarrassment" for stealing Z$12,500 (£800) of wedding presents from the couple's lavish reception last August (Michael Hartnack writes).

French rap pair jailed for 'Kill the cops' lyrics

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

TWO French rap musicians have been sentenced to three months in prison for song lyrics attacking the police, a verdict that has provoked accusations of censorship from the Left and applause from the far-right National Front.

Bruno Lopez, alias Kool Shen, 30, and Didier Morville, alias Joey Star, 29, singers of the rap group NTM, were each sentenced to six months in prison, with three months suspended, and banned from performing for six months after a court in Toulon found them guilty of "insulting behaviour towards people in authority during the exercise of their duties, by making injurious remarks before a public of several thousand people".

The rap band, composed mainly of North Africans, has gained a large youth following and huge notoriety with such lyrics as "Kill the cops" and "Let's go down to the presidential palace and kill all the old people".

In one profanity-laced song, police are described as "an organised, hierarchical gang, protected by the highest authorities".

The anti-immigrant National Front, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has spearheaded a campaign to have the group banned. The Toulon court upheld a complaint lodged by 26 policemen after an NTM concert in the Var region in July 1995. The prosecutor had called for the two singers to be imprisoned for a year.

Jean-Marie Le Chevallier, the National Front Mayor of Toulon, described the sentences as "salutary". He added: "The police must be respected, even loved, because they have an essential role in society protecting the safety of our citizens. These incitements to murder are absolutely scandalous."

A defence lawyer argued that the allegations had no merit, since the lyrics were directed at all policemen rather than individuals, and said that no policeman had ever been hurt at an NTM concert. He has appealed.

When a music festival in southwestern France was persuaded to cancel an NTM concert earlier this year, Jack Lang, the Socialist former Culture Minister, accused the local Gaullist authorities of "playing by the rules of the National Front".

After Thursday's verdict, M Lang quoted the revered French writer, André Malraux, whose ashes will be moved to the Pantheon in Paris next week: "We must always choose liberty." Yves Cochet, the Green Party spokesman, told *Le Monde*: "Liberty of expression has been censored one more time."

The court also imposed a fine of 50,000 francs (£6,250) on each of the singers. The conviction, the first of its kind in France, was hailed by the main police unions, two of which have taken out civil cases against the rappers.

Witnesses testified that during the concert at La-Seyne-sur-mer on July 14 1995, the two rappers hurled a stream of abuse at police officers: "Police are fascists. They are assassins. They go in threes, dressed in blue in their Renault 19s ... these people are a danger to your liberties. Our enemies are the men in blue."

The concert was held to protest against the election of M Le Chevallier, the first National Front mayor of a city with a population of more than 100,000.

Pierre Courtes, the prosecutor, said: "These hellraisers, did they reflect for a second on the risks they were exposing these people to? Was this not an incitement to criminality?"

Lopez said that he did not plan to tone down his lyrics. "I prefer to say things straight," he said. "Rap is the language of the streets. I don't know how anyone can accuse us of provocation. Some think we exaggerate; I rather think we plays things down."

HERIBERT PRÖPPER/AP

Peter Graf, 58, the father of Steffi Graf, the tennis star, is helped from a prison vehicle yesterday before a Mannheim court freed him on bail after 15 months in custody. The court, which is trying him on tax evasion charges, set bail at £2 million *(Reuter)*

Nile cruise bodies retrieved

From Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

RESCUE work was continuing yesterday after a Nile cruise between the southern Egyptian cities of Aswan and Luxor ended in tragedy when the tour boat *Princess Jihan* ran aground in a freak storm. Fourteen East European tourists and three crew members drowned.

By mid-afternoon Egyptian divers had retrieved the bodies of five tourists from the boat, which was lying on its side, half-submerged on a sandbank in the middle of the Nile, close to the village of Qalh al-Jabal about 360 miles south of Cairo.

Ashraf Bennan, an Egyptian tour guide who was on the boat, said that one of the dead whose body was recovered, Ian Biovsky, a Czech national had celebrated his 50th birthday with a party on the morning of the accident in which his wife, Juka, was also drowned.

Mr Bennan said that the cruise boat suddenly listed sometime between 3.30pm and 4pm on Thursday, a time when many of the tourists were resting in their cabins after lunch.

"I was in the restaurant on the lower deck talking to a friend when I felt the boat lean," he went on. "I ran up quickly and the pressure of the water broke the windows behind me.

"We pulled as many people as we could out of the cabins, but the only tools we had were ropes."

In a race against time before nightfall, another cruiser came alongside to take on some of the passengers. Scores of local people also came out to help in small boats.

Villagers said that at the time of the accident, the winds had been unusually strong on the river. The current was also in full spate because of unusually heavy rains upstream in Ethiopia.

Yeltsin's absence renews concern

From Richard Beeston
in Moscow

THERE were growing doubts yesterday about President Yeltsin's true state of health, after his planned address to the nation was postponed and all scheduled meetings were suspended.

Despite continued reassurances from the Kremlin that the Russian leader is making a steady recovery, officials failed to explain why, ten days after his multiple heart bypass operation, he has still not been seen nor heard in public.

One theory put forward by medical sources is that the President attempted to get back on his feet too quickly after his open-heart surgery on November 5, and that he may have set back his recovery.

Nevertheless, the Kremlin remained adamant that Mr Yeltsin was "stable" and that his delayed broadcast was simply a matter of timing. "You understand, the image-makers want the President's appearance to have a big impact," said Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman.

However, many pundits believe that the Russian leader would be best advised to make his comeback as quickly as possible so that the negative rumours about his health can be countered and to reassert his authority over the crisis-ridden administration.

The latest opinion polls published this week revealed that the public had little faith in the Kremlin leader. When asked which politician they trusted most, 24 per cent said General Aleksandr Lebed, the ousted former security chief, 14 per cent backed Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, and only 10 per cent named President Yeltsin.

Chalker: made plea for action, not summits

Chalker says food summit a waste

Rome: Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday stunned the World Food Summit by telling it there were too many summits on helping the hungry and not enough action aimed at getting the food to those who need it (Richard Owen writes). She said United Nations bodies and aid agencies were failing in their jobs, with too much waste and duplication.

"We need action plans to benefit our fellow human beings, not more summits," she said briskly. "We've had enough of them."

Lady Chalker's trenchant criticism came on the third day of a five-day summit which opened on Wednesday with an appeal by the Pope on behalf of the world's poor and a pledge to halve the number of hungry by 2015. But few heads of government have attended, and the summit has descended into a recitation of platitudes.

To the dismay of some aid activists, the summit newssheet on the world's starving millions has offered delegates daily advice on where to find the most elaborate pizzas and ice cream in Rome.

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Lawyer's mini-skirt judged to be decent

From Richard Owen
in Rome

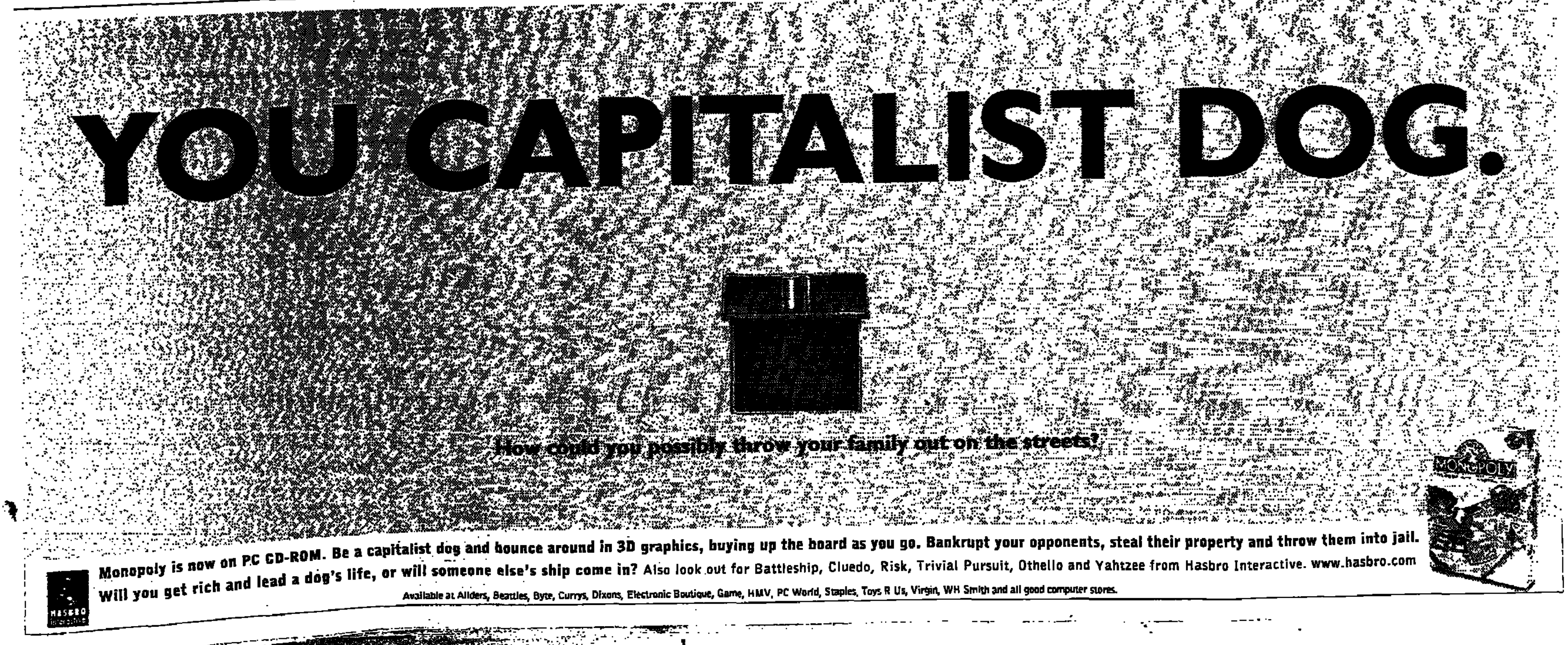
ITALIAN women, and many Italian men, yesterday welcomed a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court that for a woman to wear a mini-skirt at work was not "an offence against public decency".

The case arose when Nicoletta Bertaccini, a lawyer in Bologna, arrived at the entrance to the city prison to interview a client wearing what a local prosecutor described as "a breathtakingly high, lobster-coloured mini-skirt and a blouse that was transparent to the point of showing her bra".

A court in Parma ruled that the skirt "only partially covered the hips and buttocks, and from the front failed to cover a clearly visible pair of black knickers". It fined her £60 for "acts contrary to public decency".

Signora Bertaccini appealed to the Supreme Court, which ruled in her favour. Judge Vincenzo Accattatis said sexual customs and fashion had undergone an "enormous evolution", and what constituted public decency was a concept that altered "as the culture alters".

Handing down the judgment, he said: "How a person dresses may be judged unsuitable or in poor taste, but that is no reason to penalise their behaviour. A pluralistic and democratic society must show tolerance and accept differences in the way people dress."



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Leader of ex-Communists hopes shift to market values will be rewarded with premiership

Quick off his Marx

ROME FILE
by RICHARD OWEN

A GRAINY photograph of a slim young man with black curly hair and a moustache dancing in bell-bottomed trousers in the streets of Havana appeared in *Il Messaggero* this week. A quarter of a century on, Massimo D'Alema wears dapper suits, and is said by the Italian press to have his sights on becoming the first ex-Communist to become Prime Minister.

As leader since 1994 of the former Communists, now the Party of the Democratic Left, Signor D'Alema this weekend will lead the cheers for President Castro as the Cuban leader comes to Rome for the world food summit. But he emphasises that, despite left-wing nostalgia, the party has shed its ideological past. "We were idealists," he says with a smile. "We still are. But we have changed." After the Cold War and the collapse of the Christian Democrats in corruption scandals, the Italian Communists changed their name, dropped their Marxism, and embraced the market. After the election last April, they became the main component in the centre-left Government led by Romano Prodi, an economics professor.

Until now Signor D'Alema, 47, a long-time Communist Party apparatchik, has kept in the background. He knows Italians only overcame their distrust of the former Communists because they were in a coalition, the Olive Tree, fronted by centrist academics and bankers. But seven months on, Signor D'Alema is emerging from the shadows. He is suddenly all over the television news, the hair still curly and the youthful twinkle undimmed, leading *La Repubblica* to refer to "the metamorphosis of Massimo". He comes across as calm, prudent, and always ready with a thoughtful soundbite. Earlier this month, he launched himself as an international figure, touring Middle Eastern capitals. "D'Alema was very well informed, with very good judgment," said an impressed Italian diplomat.

Signor D'Alema's emergence into the limelight follows increasing tensions within the Olive Tree coalition. The key problem is the growing public opposition to tax increases in the 1997 budget designed to reduce the deficit and help Italy to qualify for monetary union. A huge right-wing demonstration in Rome a week ago showed that many Italians have no wish to pay the price for joining the single currency.

In the ensuing crisis, Signor D'Alema has emerged as the central coalition figure, urging Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the right-wing opposition, to help to find a compromise. The hard Left is dismayed by Signor D'Alema's increasingly cosy relationship with Signor Berlusconi. A media tycoon under investigation for corruption, Signor Berlusconi embodies what Signor D'Alema himself once regarded as the unacceptable face of Italian capitalism. Signor D'Alema is seeking Left-Right consensus not only on the single currency but also on a new body to reform the national constitution. This would allow the regions federal powers (to undermine the separatist Northern League) and give the figurehead Italian presidency an enhanced directly elected role. Some think that the Rome-born Signor D'Alema would like not only to chair the new constitutional body but also to become the new-style President — if the middle classes can trust him. He could even become Prime Minister, should the stresses of "joining Europe" persuade Professor Prodi to give up his role as front man for the Left and return to teaching economics in Bologna.

PAUL HANNA/REUTER

Massimo D'Alema, the ex-Communist apparatchik who aims to be the Prime Minister

Capitalist temple to close

AFTER nearly 200 years, the oldest stock exchange in Italy is closing down. The Rome stock exchange, founded in 1802 on the site of the papal customs house near the present parliament, is a victim not only of new electronic transactions but also a recent law abolishing the ten "local" exchanges established before Italian unification in 1870 (in what were then independent mini-states) and concentrating stock exchange activities in Milan. The Rome exchange has enjoyed perhaps the most unusual premises of any money market in Europe: a temple constructed in 145 AD, dedicated to the Emperor Hadrian, with a majestic row of marble Corinthian columns 15 metres (about 49ft) high. It is not clear who will occupy it next.

Chestnut rip-offs roasted

AMONG the sights of Rome in autumn are roast chestnut vendors. But they are under threat because, according to the town hall, which issues permits for street salesmen in central sites such as Piazza Navona, the itinerant vendors are not only overcharging tourists, at an exorbitant 80p a chestnut, but also expanding their businesses to include roast corn on the cob, coconuts and snacks.

The authorities are also cracking down on caricature artists on Piazza Navona, not all of whom are licensed. But the main complaint is that the elegant baroque square with its fountains by Bernini "resembles a Middle Eastern bazaar", because of the large number of immigrant North Africans who spread their fake designer handbags and sunglasses out on tablecloths, bundling them up when the police appear.

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor, was so incensed when he saw a photograph of the dilapidated hawker-filled square that he descended from his office and ordered them out himself. But they soon returned.

Pope's passion was theatre not girls

From Richard Owen in Rome

Pope: girls attracted by his athletic good looks

THE Pope yesterday threw new light on his lack of romantic attachments as a young man, saying he had avoided involvement with girls in wartime Poland not only because he was drawn to the priesthood, but also because he was preoccupied with the theatre.

His remarks, in his memoir *Gift and Mystery*, were written while he was awaiting surgery for an inflamed appendix during the summer.

A Vatican report on priestly vocations this month said that the number of Roman Catholic priests in Europe had fallen by 13 per cent since 1978, partly because of "secularism and the decline of moral values and discipline" and partly because of the "negative perception of celibacy". The Pope, however, continues to insist on celibacy as a condition of ordination.

The pontiff's memoirs, which take the form of reflections on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination in Krakow deal for the first time with the question often posed by his biographers: why did the young Karol Wojtyla, although deeply religious, not begin to study for the priesthood until 1942 at the age of 22?

Some have suggested that since he was athletic and handsome, and a budding playwright and actor, he might have been tempted by some of the girls who subsequently admitted they had found him attractive.

"It might be thought that if a young man with such clear religious intentions did not enter the seminary earlier, it was a sign that other loves or predelictions were involved," the Pope writes. "It is true that at school I had many female colleagues, and had numerous opportunities to meet people because of my involvement in the school theatre club. But I was consumed by another passion — for literature, especially dramatic literature, and the theatre."

The Pope recalls that he escaped deportation during the Nazi occupation by working in a stone quarry. "I often reflected that I could have been picked up at any time, at home or at the quarry, and taken to a concentration camp. So many people of my age were losing their lives all around me — why not me?"

He concluded, he says, that God had saved his life for a special purpose.

Hard Rock in new ban

Madrid: The city council here has taken the "mad cow" baton from Paris and seized and incinerated 660lb of beef from the Spanish capital's Hard Rock Café, (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The Irish beef had passed through a London warehouse, which made it "potentially unfit for human consumption", said Simón Viñals, Madrid's health councillor. "The rules prohibit the import of British beef, so we had to take action ... even though the meat was Irish." Legal proceedings have been started against the restaurant which, in order to stay open, is serving only Spanish meat.

The Hard Rock Café in Paris was closed earlier this month for selling beef which it said was Irish.

Resignation of minister adds to beleaguered Prodi's woes

By Richard Owen

ITALY'S centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi, already reeling from huge public demonstrations against tax increases, yesterday sought to limit the damage caused by the sudden resignation of Antonio Di Pietro, a senior minister and former anti-corruption magistrate.

The resignation came hours before the core provisions of the controversial 1997 budget, designed to meet the Maastricht single currency criteria by slashing the public deficit, passed the lower house yesterday.

The centre-right opposition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, boycotted the vote in protest against the Government's attempt to raise revenue through tax increases rather than cuts in welfare and pensions spending. The taxes remain bitterly unpopular, and the trade unions yesterday threatened to call a general strike. The budget still has to pass the Senate next month.

Signor Di Pietro, who commands enormous popularity for his fight against corruption, resigned as Public Works Minister on Thursday night after only seven months in office. Earlier, he had learnt that magistrates in Brescia had begun an investigation into allegations of "irregularities" while he was leading the "Clean Hands" investigations four years ago in the Milan area. Signor Berlusconi — one of the most prominent figures charged with corruption under "Clean Hands" — called on Signor Prodi to step down.

There was immediate speculation that Signor Di Pietro, a maverick who belongs to no political party, might form a centre party of his own. Walter Veltroni, the deputy Prime Minister, insisted that the Di Pietro resignation would have no effect on the ruling coalition.

Signor Di Pietro believes politicians and businessmen brought down by "Clean Hands" are conducting a vendetta against him. "Enough is enough," he wrote to Signor Prodi. "For years I have been subjected to inquiries and investigations, always unjustly ... I tried to do my duty."

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■ OPINION

Blood and more blood: is it time to curb the national appetite for illness and injury on our television screens?

■ THEATRE

The RSC keeps faith with the original, in its new staging of the medieval morality play *Everyman*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ ON MONDAY

The big-voiced Canadian chanteuse Celine Dion at Wembley, and all the other top shows reviewed

■ NEXT WEEK

Saving the sounds of heritage: the campaign to keep traditional music alive in a free South Africa

Any good diseases on telly tonight?

No kinky nookie! No swearing! No thuggery before 9pm! No necrophilia! No dropping sweet wrappers in the corridor! No cheating at dominoes! No nibbling toes between meals!

Yes, the BBC's tough new "code of ethics" for producers — introduced this week in touching deference to Nanny Bottomley's recent finger-wagging strictures — will certainly put the dampers on the more ebullient spirits at Television Centre. Not before time, either. To misquote the late Peter Cook, I don't pay an £89.50 licence fee to be subjected to a stream of filth from the BBC: I can get that free from my own family.

But sadly, the BBC's chaste chairman, Sir Christopher Bland (no cheap puns, please), has missed the chance to ban the most perverse and peculiar aspect of present-day British television. It's the extraordinary obsession with horrible illness and injury.

Don't get me wrong. Medical science is a wonderful thing. Our bodies are delicate and beautiful objects — in theory, anyway — and a curiosity about how they work, or don't, is natural. But as I scanned next week's *Radio Times* I began to feel as if I was reading an unusually colourful edition of *The Lancet*, or perhaps a chapter from *Confessions of a Hypochondriac*.

Consider this creepy selection of "entertainments" in the next seven days. First come no fewer than four hospital dramas: *Casualty*, *ER*, *Staying Alive* and *The Fragile Heart*. The old cry of "is there a doctor in the house?" is clearly redundant. These days, there can scarcely be an evening when a doctor is *not* in most British homes, albeit emoting from the telly. TV drama has become like those bores who, when you greet them with a courteous "how are you?", proceed to give you a limb-by-limb bulletin.

But the documentaries are even more besotted with sickness than the dramas are. Next week's *Panorama* is about Kawasaki disease, while *Horizon* digs up more scare-stories — or "disturbing evidence" — about mad cows. *Modern Times* also agonises about BSE, while *Network First* has a jolly story about "psychosurgery", the operation in which surgeons deliberately damage the brain tissue of disturbed patients.

Then there is *Trust Me, I'm a Doctor*, which sets out each week to disprove its title in alarming fashion; and *The Mind Traveller*, in which Oliver Sacks adds a little neurological angst to the schedules; and of course *How Do They Do That?*, which next week tells us "how doctors saved the life of a jockey who had suffered the worst injuries they had ever seen".

If you tire of watching crocked human beings, there are lots of furry friends in distress on *Animal Hospital* and *Vets' School*. Meanwhile, Channel 4 is showing a delightful documentary called *Tiger Shark*, which begins with a tale about a shark regurgitating a human arm in Sydney Aquarium, and then turns *really* nasty. "If you can stomach the sight of turtles reduced to bleeding pulp, this is for you," says *Radio Times*. Mmm, yes please! And don't stint on the mayonnaise, waiter.

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Medical dramas and documentaries are not the only programmes offering a sight of squashed people. "Realistic" cop shows — *Homicide*, *NYPD Blue*, *Miami Vice* — can be relied on for a bracing batch of mutilations. *The Bill* promises a lip-smacking "gangland execution" next week. *London's Burning* thrusts its hose-happy heroes into a new furnace every episode. And television is increasingly dependent on real-life accident footage, with which it can make voyeuristic "re-enactments" such as *999 Lifesavers*.

Of course, ours is not the first era to delight in dramatising medical matters. A famous medieval mystery-play added two midwives to the story of Christ's birth — ladies otherwise unknown to biblical scholarship. They probe the private regions of the Virgin Mary before declaring her intact: a scene that would certainly fail the BBC's new code of ethics.

Likewise, Shakespeare, Marlowe and the Jacobean playwrights all depicted gruesome injuries. Some of the world's favourite operas finish with the heroine coughing herself to death. And television has displayed a penchant for handsome medics throughout its comparatively brief history: the very names Kildare and Finlay still send shivers down susceptible spinster spines.

But have the boundaries between entertainment and human suffering ever been as blurred as they are today? I doubt it. So much of this stuff is now shown on television that we don't even notice how morbid the trend is.

That is what is so ironic about the "outrage" whipped up by David Cronenberg's film *Crash*, in which perverts get warped thrills from car crashes and their victims. Personally, I wouldn't cross the road to see it. But why ban it? The film only carries our macabre fascination with accident victims to its logical extreme. If we are revolted by *Crash*, shouldn't we also be embarrassed by the huge ratings for *Casualty*?

What worries me is the effect all this is having on the nation's health. I'm sure that people who watch lots of programmes about illness start to feel poorly themselves. Even the small act of writing this article has made me feel queasy; I may need to lie down for several hours in a darkened sauna to recover. Is there any treatment for telly-induced psychosomatics? I expect a programme will be along shortly to tell us.

Uncommon heard

JAZZ

Carmen Lundy
Queen Elizabeth Hall

IF SHE can give as imposing a display as this when entombed in the QEH's concrete box and burdened with a dismal sound mix, who knows what Carmen Lundy can do when the conditions are ideal?

Her sensitively paced two-hour trio performance as part of the Oris London Jazz Festival confirmed the American's right to a place in the vocalists' premier league. Lundy received the full production treatment, strings and all, on her recent JVC album *Self Portrait*, a polished collection that tried a little too hard to establish her credentials to be the new Sarah Vaughan and Betty Carter rolled into one. Lundy sells herself energetically as a writer too, but there is a simpering, touchy-feely quality to her lyrics more suited to one of those "quiet storm" soul radio stations.

Actually deciphering the words of the original numbers was all but impossible for a good part of the concert: Onaje Alan Gumbs's piano accompaniment was similarly indistinct. Fortunate for us, then, that Winston Clifford's drumming was so acute and controlled.

What was obvious, though, was the sense of exhilaration that Lundy radiates when she has a trio cruising at her heels. Her message on *Better Days* may have been a routine slice of Oprah talk show uplift ("Better days will soon be here/All your sadness will disappear"), but her buoyant arrangement — soulful piano chords laid over insistent bass and drum figures — gave it contemporary momentum.

The standards *My Favourite Things* and *My Ship* benefited from the same approach, and Lundy's command of theatrical gesture was deployed to good effect on an achingly slow reading of the ballad *Spring Can Really Hang You Up the Most*.

CLIVE DAVIS

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** on a production admirably true to the spirit and letter of a great morality play

That's right, tell it like it was

Everyman
Stratford

An editor of the late-medieval morality play, *Everyman*, writes approvingly of its "lenten austerity". His words are justified, too, for it describes the spiritual journey of Master Average after he has received his summons from Death, and it leaves little room for the humour that brightened some of the era's miracle plays. Imagine someone being given a diagnosis of terminal cancer and, after a brief, hopeless fight, readying his soul for the inevitable, and you have the shape of *Everyman*.

There are directors who would tart up the piece to make it more palatable to unbelievers. Give it to the Michael Bogdanov who recently travestied *Faust*, and you could expect a chorus of vices in glittering toppers, tapping their way through rococo graveyards to a neon heaven. There are other directors who would distract us with visual marvels: holograms of God, or the Grim Reaper arriving by chopper. But at The Other Place Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni, joint directors fresh from the Theatre de Complicite, keep a fair degree of faith with the original, and hold our attention throughout the 90 minutes it lasts.

How to deal with Fellowship, Good Deeds, and the other moral abstractions who people the protagonist's fading life? The directors' perfectly legitimate solution is to turn the stage sometimes into a barren, rocky strand, sometimes into an impressionistic village indeterminately sited in the Balkans or Africa. When we get to know Joseph Mydell's Everyman, he is a spry playboy acting as best man at the marriage of Edward Woodall's gladhanding Fellowship, and at first greets Josette Bushell-Mingo's Death, with her smart black dress and tiny, knowing smile, as if she were a fanciable wedding guest.

This seems to me true to the spirit of our anonymous author, and most of what follows is true to his letter, too. The parasite Kindred, like Fellowship, fails to help. Goods or Money, a gold-chained spiv, points out that he is better at destroying than succouring souls. An increasingly distraught and impressive Mydell realises that he needs to bring Good Deeds to the judgment throne, only to discover that his fast-track life has left this allegorical lady looking like a laundry bag with leprosy.

I can't say why the qualities the dying Everyman is doomed to lose — Strength, Beauty, his Five Wits — should turn out to be a bunch of weirdly dressed freaks arriving by Heath Robinson motorbike. Still less can I justify the curious medley of religious charlatans who materialise between the confession he makes and the Communion he receives. There is an element of late 15th-century anti-clericalism in the play, including a reference to priests "who haunt women's company with unclean life"; but that's no reason for the appearance of a mad monk, a voodoo shaman, a chanting Sufi, et al.

Since they also stage extreme unction in a decidedly unorthodox way, the directors maybe hope to de-Christianise or post-Christianise the play. Given the nature of the author's beliefs, that's about as consistent as pretending a steak barbecue is a vegetarian breakfast; yet, finally, it does not vastly matter. Whatever the incidental muddles, the brisk, rough-theatre approach has not deprived *Everyman* of its gravity. The Mydell who sinks shriven and renewed into the tin bathtub that doubles as his grave is what he should be: a figure of sad and simple dignity.

DONALD COOPER

The excellent Joseph Mydell (second from left), together with Paul Hamilton, Edward Woodall and Johnny Lodi in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Everyman

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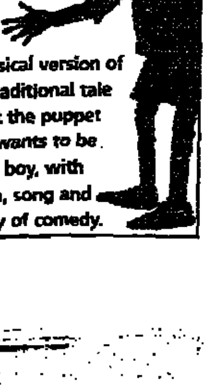

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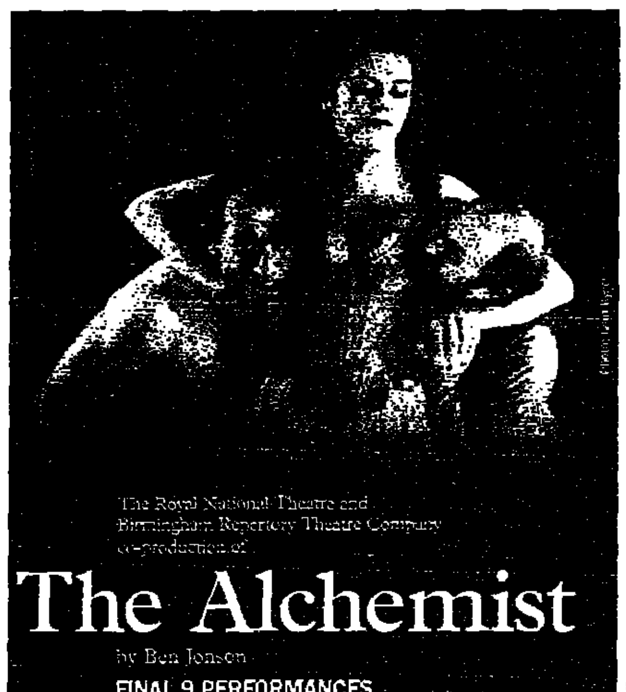

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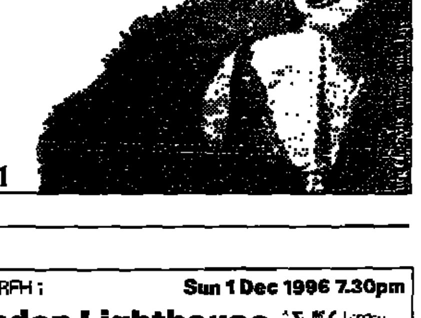

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Don't talk while I'm interrupting your speech

Broadcasting's culture of rudeness won't let others get a word in, says **Derwent May**

At the entirely secular memorial service for Kingsley Amis the other day, the congregation was played a recording of him when he was a castaway on *Desert Island Discs*. One thing particularly struck me: how substantial the musical extracts were at that time.

Nowadays, on *Desert Island Discs*, Sue Lawley talks and talks and the music has shrunk to little more than a few evocative bars of the pieces that the castaway chooses. Moreover, in the past few weeks there has been a further development. With some of the extracts, the talking continues even after the music has begun, and starts again before the music has finished.

This insistence on talking while there is something else going on that one wants to listen to is especially prevalent on television news — on all the channels. In particular, the filming of Parliament for the news bulletins has sunk to a great depth of absurdity. One only gets very brief glimpses of the proceedings, as it is — but even then one is not allowed to hear what minsters and MPs are actually saying.

What we get is a paraphrase by a reporter of what a parliamentarian is saying even while he is saying it. We see the poor man gesticulating over the benches with his mouth opening and closing, but no sound comes from him. Or — even worse — his voice is heard just faintly in the background.

Here they are, cameras and microphones in the House, allowing us entry to perhaps a great debate as we sit in our armchairs — and yet we find ourselves straining to hear what a debater is saying, how he is saying it, what he sounds like, while the reporter drowns him out with some bare summary that we could as easily read in the papers.

You feel that the reporter might just as well put his head in front of the picture and be done with it.

But the minister or MP is allowed his pathetic moment. The reporter falls silent, the sound is turned up, and we get half a sentence of wisdom or repartee from him before the bulletin goes on to something else. That "half a sentence" is not just rhetoric on my part. There is a distinct cadence to an English sentence, with the voice falling on the last word to indicate that it is the end of the utterance.

Nowadays, on television, more often than not a speaker is cut off in mid-sentence. You always know it because the voice is still rising. The bit of the sentence that one hears may make perfectly good sense in itself, but one knows that the speaker has simply not finished making his point.

It is extremely irritating and even physically disturbing to the viewer — and, to my mind, it is very offensive to the speaker as well. That is the point I really want to make here. A culture of rudeness has sprung up on television in the past two or three years.

Allowing people to speak, to have their say, is one of the essential points of good manners and respect for other people. Talking while other people are talking, interrupting them, turning one's back on them before they have finished — these are heinous crimes against courtesy.

Yet television news does these things all the time — and prides itself on the technical skill with which it does them. That neat insertion of half a politician's sentence into a carefully worded little news item — how pleased, you can feel, the reporter and the editor of the bulletin are with the deftness they have displayed in their craft.

This culture of rudeness is not, however, a matter of broadcasters being deliberately and ostentatiously rude. It reflects a disagreeable dose of self-importance, no doubt, but it also springs to some degree out of a proper pursuit — that of reporting clearly and briskly what people such as politicians have got to say on a subject of interest. But it treats people who are on television film as mere inert material, to be chopped up and pasted in to the bulletin as required.

> The cadence of English is lost if you only hear half a sentence

We have been hearing a lot about manners and morals lately, not least on television news bulletins. But this seems to me a classic case of the medium itself being the message — and a very bad message too.

Viewers do not see MPs on television film as scraps of "copy" to be used as needed. They accept the illusion of television, and regard them as people, whom the television personnel are treating like dirt. The bulletins send a message that it is nevertheless perfectly all right to treat people like this. After all, is it not the great panjandrums of television who are doing it? That is the way bad behaviour spreads and grows.

On French television one sees a different spectacle — speakers arguing fiercely with each other, both speaking at the same time at the tops of their voices. Professor John Weightman, an authority on the Gallic mind, told me he once remonstrated with a Frenchwoman who did this to him. She replied blandly: "It's all right. I can hear what you're saying when I'm talking."

That does not suit us. The late Jock Murray, in his recently issued *Gentleman Publisher's Commonplace Book*, quotes Todd Rockefeller — one of the lesser-known Rockefellers — as saying: "Don't talk while I'm interrupting". That seems far too common a motto for television broadcasters today.

American women did not vote for Clinton's looks, but for his progressive policies, says **Clare Short**

Women want Blair, but not for his hair

Women's votes are in the news. For those of us who have been analysing women's voting behaviour this is long overdue. Unfortunately, our relief is accompanied by a large dose of irritation, as the issues are trivialised and we are told by the press that the battle for women's votes is a matter of party leaders' hairstyles.

Last Sunday I was quoted as saying that women's historical tendency to vote more conservatively than men represents a deep political failure for Labour. This is perfectly true. If women had voted Labour in the same proportions as men, we would have seen continuous Labour governments from 1945 to 1979 and Labour would have won in 1992. The Tories' success with women voters explains their domination of political power in the postwar period.

It is nonsense to present these results as a bombshell for Labour. While women's votes have been our historical failure, the polls show a gradual closing of the gap between men's and women's voting behaviour. In 1951, 54 per cent of women voted Conservative, compared with 46 per cent of men. This represented a "gender gap" between men's and women's voting behaviour of 17 percentage points. By 1992, the gap was six points. Recent polls suggest that is has narrowed still further.

Yet women make up the majority of low-paid workers, the majority of the poorest pensioners and are more dependent on public services, such as transport and healthcare, than men. Despite Labour's achievements in creating the welfare state, the NHS and the Sex Discrimination and Equal Pay Acts, women have voted for us in smaller numbers than men. This is a surprising and frustrating phenomenon for Labour.

The recent hysteria in the press over women's voting intent was initially sparked off by a report from the Fawcett Society which simply highlighted the historic trends. The report pointed out that women's votes would be crucial in determining the outcome of the election.

This shift in voting patterns is of great concern to the Conservatives. It is women who have kept them in power. As women's votes shift to Labour, their power base slips away.

Clare Short: women are trumps

What is at stake is an historic shift in voting behaviour that will not just influence the next election, but the balance of power over the next 50 years.

And international experience suggests that women's votes will shift. The pattern in other countries is that women's greater involvement in the labour market is followed, after a lag, by a shift in their votes to the more progressive parties. This has perhaps been most graphically illustrated in the United States. In the late 1970s, America had a gender gap, like that in the UK, which favoured the Republicans. But gradually, women's votes have shifted to the Democrats. Last week we saw Bill Clinton elected on women's votes.

Women voted 58 per cent for Clinton and 33 per cent for Dole. If it had been left to the men, the result would have been too close to call — 45 per cent voted for Clinton compared with 42 per cent for Dole. This is not because women find Clinton attractive — far from it. It is because the values of the Democrats are closer to their own.

This is the challenge which faces the Labour Party. If we could achieve this kind of historic shift in Britain, we might never see another Conservative government. The polls show that women share our values — on the need for fairness and equality of opportunity, for strong and safe communities and for financial and personal security.

If their votes would follow, the face of British politics would be transformed. Current polling suggests that this may be about to happen. With only months to go until the election, Labour is much more popular among women than are the Conservatives, and Tony Blair remains far more popular than John Major with both sexes and all age groups.

Labour is more determined than ever to communicate our message to women and to demonstrate how a Labour government will improve the quality of life to build a better future. It is right to emphasise that women's votes will be a battleground in the campaign. However, we, unlike the press, recognise that women are serious political players. Winning their support will be about offering them the vision and the policies they want, not a fictitious change in hairstyle.

The author is Shadow Minister for Overseas Development.

Save us from this African folly

Only the exodus from Zaire can stop another fatal adventure by the West

Simon Jenkins

Passers-by in Whitehall have recently noticed a bedraggled African standing with a small stool outside the Foreign Office. The man holds a flag and stares vacantly into the street. His placard says simply, "Sudan: we request a British government initiative to settle this war." We smile at the poor chap. He may be standing under the naked-breasted goddess of empire adorning the nerve-centre of diplomacy. But he must realise that Britain is no longer a great power. Rhodes and Kitchener are dead. Africa is independent. We no longer do wars there.

Yet we pretend. Like schoolboys, we play Gordon of Khartoum as if preaching morality to the Dark Continent. We send an occasional soldier to remind the Africans (and ourselves) of the good old days. This week, had the man outside the Foreign Office only waved the Zairean flag, he would be hero of the hour. Malcolm Rifkind would rush down and invite him in for a drink. The BBC would sign him up as a pundit. Michael Portillo would enlist him as guide in the regiment of his choice. Michael Heseltine would suggest a speaking tour of marginal seats.

Until last night, Britain was about to dispatch troops to Zaire not to relieve a natural or human disaster but to attempt a political goal. This goal was to ferry quantities of supplies through to the Hutu settlements in Zaire then under Tutsi attack. At the same time Hutu militia leaders were to be picked out and arrested, sent to war crimes trials and their followers sent back into Rwanda. (The French had a different goal, to protect their old friends, the same Hutu leaders, from Tutsi retribution.) These confused objectives were unlikely to be attained by intervention, and every private adviser was telling ministers so. On Thursday the Defence Secretary, Mr Portillo, at least had the honesty to sound unconvincing. He even pretended that British troops were not really going, just thinking of going as a token of "something being done".

This is how most British armies go abroad nowadays, crabwise to "do something" unspecified. In the last century merchant adventurers stirred the media to badger politicians over national pride. Gunboats and troop carriers were duly sent. The merchant adventurers of modern Africa are the aid agencies, often feuding with each other and the United Nations. They are the biggest power-brokers on the continent. They can move large quantities of money and supplies. They influence the outcome of wars, as in Ethiopia. They occupy territory, wreck fragile market economies, encourage rural depopulation and are obsessed with self-publicity. I accept the sincerity of their purpose and the fact that they can save lives in the short term. The jury is out on how many they cost in the long term.

These charities once made much of their pacifism, as the International Committee of the Red Cross still does. They refused ever to work under the shadow of the gun. But since Somalia and Bosnia, aid agencies have risen to the sound of the fife and drum. With a jeer at the UN and a stage-managed CNN soundbite, they can now embarrass statesmen into sending armies round the globe. Accountable to none, they call in the moral B-52s for surgical strikes at targets selected for accessibility to television news. (There is no fundraising for starving Azeris or Chechens.) In Zaire it has been the turn of CARE and Save the Children to have their logos emblazoned over CNN reports brazenly calling for troops. Under the exaggerated slogan "a million dead by Christmas", a fund-raising drive is under way. Pity the needy of Sudan, Liberia, Angola. Zaire is in play.

Two years ago some more reputable relief agencies (including Save the Children) refused to go to Goma and other Rwandan refugee settlements in Zaire. Stabilising such havens for Hutu leaders and their followers was certain to lead to trouble. Even at some short-term humanitarian cost, the hundreds of thousands pouring into Zaire had to be left to go home. Instead, for two years Goma became a city sustained by aid and policed by warlords, waiting for the Tutsi counter-attack. It has duly come. The mercy is that it came, and has proved effective, before Western soldiers arrived on the scene. The latter would have been been drawn into a civil war in which they would inevitably taken sides. Battle lines would have hardened. There would have been less, not more, chance of yesterday's mass return to Rwanda.

In handling the Rwandan refugee crisis, has the West learnt from the UN's fiasco in the Congo (now Zaire) 35 years ago? These Irish UN troops were captured in 1961 by the secessionist forces of Katanga

For six years the world has been flooding Rwanda with aid and troops, including 600 Britons in 1994. None of this appears to have done an ounce of good. Tens of millions of dollars have gone down the drain and tens of thousands of people have died. Rwanda is plainly worse off than it was before the intervention began. Yet nobody conducts any audit. British MPs on Thursday seemed unaware that Britain had troops in Rwanda as recently as 1994. The reason is that they were never part of any strategy, humanitarian, political or military. They were to enable a minister to show he was "taking a lead" at some conference.

Rwanda's troubles are not natural but man-made. Politically-correct racism holds that African states must never be held to blame for the human cost of their civil wars. Every charity spokesman I have heard has implied that the fault lies with the UN, the West or some non-existent entity called "the international community". Yesterday in *The Times*, the international director of Oxfam welcomed the dispatch of UN troops to the war in Zaire. He blithely demanded that they "disarm the genocidal militia and forces of the former Rwandan regime" (that is the Hutus), as well as "achieve a political settlement in the region". *The Washington Post*, for its part, called last week for Western troops to separate combatants from non-combatants in the camps so that "the killers be culled". It would be ludicrous to expect 12,000 white soldiers operating in hostile country under genteel rules of engagement to do any such thing, even if there were the remotest legal justification for such intrusion. Thank goodness the UN delayed until the Tutsis did the job instead.

There is no point in charity that merely prolongs war. But if charity is to be given, let it be private and go where it is most needed and not where it serves politics. Rwanda is a fertile independent state that has squandered years of help. The place has become drunk on intervention. It needs to re-establish central authority, whether democratic or not. Sending in foreign soldiers to substitute for local authority, to disarm the latter's enemies or protect them from retaliation, to move peoples across the map and to impose political settlements, is neo-imperialism.

Even if there were a moral case for the aid agencies' implicit desire to restore Western sovereignty in Central Africa — coded as "humanitarian relief" — there is no clear strategy to achieve it. For instance, France's motives in Rwanda-Zaire are diametrically opposed to Britain's. Even if there were such a strategy for intervention, there is none for subsequent disengagement. Britain is terrible at leaving Africa.

The West appears to have lost what was meant to be a test of its moral Rapid Deployment capability. The logic of power on the ground has, for once, stolen a march. What else is around? Mr Rifkind could perhaps take the advice of the man outside his office. He could try Sudan. There the sons of the Mahdi are again on the rampage. Thousands are starving. Khartoum awaits. It would be a fine place for a Tory last stand.

Scotch fling

TIME to take all the speculation about Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's health and file it under N for "Next patient please". Thursday night saw her in Blitz form as she attended the Victory Services Club behind Marble Arch with 150 fellow members of the Black Watch Association.

At 96 she has been *hors de combat* with a chill, missing even the Remembrance Day Parade. But for the Bowes Lyon "family" regiment, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief, she always turns out. "Don't push forward," said Colonel R.I.L. Ker. "There is not a hope in hell that the Colonel-in-Chief can meet you all." Clearly, he had not consulted the Queen Mother first.

Queen Mother: bonny

As she was piped in, behind her came a butler carrying a dry Martini on a silver tray, a change from her usual gin and Dubonnet. She would turn occasionally for a reviving draught as she toured the assorted kilts.

She wore her favourite earrings in the Black Watch "Jimmies" (St Andrew's Cross badge worn on sporran and Glengarry) and the jewelled Jimmie brooch given to her by one of her brothers who was killed with the BW at Arras in 1914.

Grizzled old sergeants grew quite moist-eyed at the sight of her and the affection was obviously mutual. After 50 minutes of gossiping she had to be dragged away by her pipers to another engagement.

Before the company sat down to a dinner the upturned pyramid Martini glass, complete with royal lipstick smudge, was auctioned for £50.

● *Lord Tebbit added his own remarks to the politicians' hair debate on Thursday night before delivering a lecture at Church House in Westminster. John Redwood introduced him, pointing out that he didn't have quite as much hair as some others to worry about. Tebbit told his audience that his approach to hair-care is seasonal. "I get my hair cut four times a year. At the winter and summer solstices and both equinoxes. That way I don't forget about it."*

Oil baron

MAJORCANS are divided over the increasing presence on their island of Richard Branson. First he opened the discreet, yet ritzy, La Residencia hotel. Now his latest plans for a beachside pleasure palace have run into some local opposition. The new site, which Branson has already bought, contains a sizeable olive grove. Branson's people had a dream: weary rat-racers could come and work out their tensions in this kibbutz-like idyll, pressing olives, making olive oil. This could then be sold as Virgin extra virgin.

Any chance of returning Billy Connolly as well?

THE TIMES DIARY

Planners are now dithering over the idea, while Virgin tells me: "Richard is toying with lots of ideas." The word in the Balearics is that he may need all of them.

● *Next year's Conservative Party conference in Blackpool could mark the last time the Tories use the imposing, red-brick Imperial Hotel as their headquarters. There is talk within the National Union, which organises the conference, of decamping to the Pembroke down the road. This follows complaints from many party members that the Imperial during conference is an overpriced, overheated inferno. By contrast, the Pembroke is cool and modern. Fill it with 1,000 barking Tories, however, and that is unlikely to last.*

With nobs on

THE WHIFF of damp Barbours and creak of old brogues was evident in central Manhattan this week when the British Field Sports Society held a fundraising auction. It attracted more than 250, mostly deep-pocketed, New Yorkers.

Under the hammer went a day's pheasant shooting and dinner with Lord and Lady Vestey at Stowell Park, Gloucestershire, for $9,000. A three-day stay in London with lunch at the House of Lords with the Earl of Stockton — him picking up the tab — sold for $3,000, and a day's shooting with the Duke of Marlborough for $10,500. The Legge-Bourkes of Powys, Tiggy's parents, offered a duck day at Glanusk Park, Crickhowell.

Lord Willoughby de Broke, who organised the evening, looked pink with pleasure at the total raised, which exceeded $200,000. It was a measure of the buying fury of the night that some soul even bid $350 for a tour of the Palace of Westminster with the twittish Tory MP for Wimbledon, Charles Goodson-Wickes, roughly $349 more than most would consider paying.

All bran

BEST to keep upwind of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare at the moment. He is on a high fibre diet — lots of bran, green vegetables and wholemeal bread — in an effort to lose weight. The inspiration for this came as the Archers celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary. Lady A noticed she was one pound lighter than on the day they married. Not so Jeffrey, who came in two stone heavier.

Ever the man of action, Archer hired a personal trainer "to beat me up in my own gym" with a pledge to be two stone lighter by December 1. Unfortunately all is not going to plan. "I lose the fat but then it turns to muscle," he says, "resulting in only minimal weight loss."

Lord Archer claims the exercise and diet makes him feel twice as spritely. "I used to be tiresome, now I'm impossible. The only thing I miss is shepherd's pie."

Model baby

MISSING from Thursday's Cartier party in New Bond Street was India Hicks, model, granddaughter of Earl Mountbatten and one of the faces of the jewellers' new advertisements. Guests had to make do with Cartier's other catalogue models, such as Laetitia Cash, daughter of Bill Cash, MP, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, the daring Fulham essayist, who posed in a telephone booth wearing a furry hat for her shoot.

India Hicks: pregnant

Miss Hicks, it emerged, was staying at the family house on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera, where she was preparing for her first baby. Her boyfriend manages a local hotel.

P·H·S

شكرا من الاهل

CASSANDRA'S WARNING

How to plan a coup against Prime Minister Blair

It is the nightmare that good combative Conservatives try to conjure when faced with a friend who is backing Tony Blair: remember Ken Livingstone and the GLC. A moderate leader of the Labour group was ousted in a left-wing putsch straight after winning an election: the same fate might await that nice Mr Blair.

Now, however, it is not a Tory mooting this possibility but a Labour figure writing under the pseudonym "Cassandra" in *Tribune*. The author suggests that, by the end of next year, Mr Blair will be "isolated and weakened beyond recovery", and that Robin Cook, who has "built the strongest parliamentary reputation since John Smith" will be ready to step into his shoes.

How credible is this? Labour has traditionally been much less ruthless than the Tories about replacing its leaders. Attlee, Gaitskell, Wilson, Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock all suspected plots to oust them. Sometimes they were right. But they all held on to their posts. If Labour was not prepared to sack Mr Foot when he was in Opposition and trailing hugely in the polls, it might seem unlikely that the party would want to rid itself of Mr Blair if he were Prime Minister and has just delivered them its first general election victory for 23 years.

It has to be said that Messrs Foot and Kinnock were retained well beyond their useful life because the party still felt sentimentally loyal towards them. Mr Blair, less rooted in the party, is unlikely to be able to draw on such reserves. But one look at the constitutional obstacles to sacking a Labour leader when the party is in office shows how unlikely the Livingstone idea ought to be.

If a leadership contest is to be triggered against a Labour Prime Minister, a majority of the party conference (that is, trade unionists and constituency activists) would have to vote for one. Then 20 per cent of Labour MPs (probably 65 to 70 in the event of an election victory) would have to declare their support, publicly, for the challenger. Technically, Mr Blair looks safe enough.

The only other hope for Cassandra is a Cabinet revolt. In the end, it was loss of the Cabinet's confidence that put paid to Margaret Thatcher. The same fate would have befallen John Major had there been an alternative candidate around whom his colleagues could unite.

What combination of circumstances could make the Cabinet turn against Mr Blair? A decision to enter the single currency could be one such. The imposition of economic austerity in order to meet the convergence criteria could lead to high unemployment, huge government unpopularity and a weakening of the Prime Minister's position. Mr Cook, with his known Euro-sceptic views, could benefit from Mr Blair's misfortune. That is one reason why the Labour leader is highly unlikely to take such a risk.

There is little in Labour's proposed programme that could generate a coup. The whole purpose of winning party support for new Labour policies in advance of an election is that members will be unable to complain afterwards if they are put into effect. But there are still "events", the bane of every politician's life. Most threatening to Mr Blair would be a series of severe public sector strikes, in which he and Gordon Brown could be presented as authoritarian, anti-trade union gorgons fighting nurses, ambulance drivers or school dinner ladies. Mr Cook could hint that he would like to see the strikes settled with a higher pay offer and that only the instransigence of Messrs Blair and Brown was preventing a resolution.

If he became Prime Minister, Mr Blair would undoubtedly have to take unpopular decisions. His only hope, therefore, would be to surround himself with like-minded people. His first Cabinet would have to be made up largely of the present Shadow Cabinet. But before long, he would be able to bring in more modernisers. And Mr Cook, a prickly loner, is not popular with his senior colleagues. They would not eagerly precipitate a change of leadership that might give him the top job.

DAWN OF HOPE

The West must review every aspect of its African mercy mission

Almost overnight, the rebel forces in eastern Zaire appear to have accomplished what America and Canada feared to undertake, France refused to contemplate and Britain considered highly risky. Their attacks on the Mugunga camps near Goma have succeeded in driving the extremist Rwandan Hutu militias into the surrounding forests. Free at last of armed intimidation and able to make their own choices, around 400,000 ordinary Rwandan refugees emptied the camps at first light; most of them appear to be headed home. As the news spreads, other refugees may vote with their feet.

The emergency is not over, but at least one part of the Great Lakes jigsaw may be coming back together. If the *Interahamwe*'s grip over their fellow Hutus is really on the way to being broken, the task of providing help will dramatically change. An unknown number of refugees, scattered by the recent fighting, may find their way back blocked by armed gangs. "Food trails" to the frontier, possibly including air drops, may be needed. But the main relief effort should be in Rwanda and, probably, Burundi too. That is particularly important to acknowledge because this flow could abruptly reverse if the returnees encounter violence in Rwanda.

Western governments have already started the military ball rolling in one direction and spent some capital preparing their publics for a "Zaire mission". They may be tempted to hold course simply because they have reached broad agreement on it. The Foreign Office view yesterday was that "news reports" justified no change of plan. The French, who continue to give the impression that their real aim is to use the "international community" to help Zaire's Government to regain control of its eastern provinces, were still talking about clearing Goma and Bukavu airstrips of Zairean rebel forces. Why "secure" airstrips where there is no fighting, in order to reach refugees who may not be there?

To stick to plan would be absurdly counter-productive. In order to capitalise on this unexpected breakthrough, the utmost flexibility is now called for. At Stuttgart next week, the West should review all its initial assumptions about the size, configuration and character of the military mission.

The most urgent immediate need may be a military airlift of food to Rwanda itself. But this will require astute handling of relations with the Rwandan Government, which understandably takes the view that the money spent on deploying soldiers would be better directed to assisting resettlement. Military contingents could speed aid distribution now. But airstrips which are needed to ferry in aid must not be clogged by massive troop deployments. The Hutu returnees must be protected from reprisals by local Tutsis who suspect them, with some justice, of complicity in the 1994 massacre. For this task, more human rights monitors would be the best contribution.

If it adjusts intelligently to the new realities, the West could be in the heartening, and unexpected, position of reinforcing good news. Instead of battling, perhaps literally, to get relief to the Zaire camps — much of which, unless these murderous militias were first disabled, was going to end up in their hands — international effort can and should be concentrated on making this massive and apparently spontaneous homeward migration a durable success. That is what the Rwandan Government insists that it wants. National reconciliation may seem near-impossible after the horrors of 1994: but it has had precious little help to date with this tremendous task. It is time to invest in a more stable Rwanda.

TAUT LINES

The modern fisherman needs more than patience and a worm

High-speed fishing used to be an oxymoron. Fishing once gave the angler something to do while he was not doing anything. Centuries of literature and lore have used the sport as a metaphor for the virtues of patience, idleness and Micawberism. Izaak Walton hinted at these pleasures when he subtitled *The Compleat Angler: A Contemplative Man's Recreation*. There was nothing high-speed about his riverbank idyll, except the march to fish supper at the end of the day.

As our Angling Correspondent reports today, Larry Salter of Ebbw Vale sees his sport rather differently, and has smashed the world record for bleak-fishing by landing 46lbs 12 ozs of fish in five hours. If his quarry had been a record pike from Llandegfedd Reservoir or a giant salmon out of the Tay, this might have been a satisfactory catch of one fish after a long day's wait. But bleak are among the smallest fish to take a bait, smaller even than whitebait, though nothing like as good in batter. They average only a third of an ounce. Mr Salter caught more than 1,500 of them. So he was averaging a fish every 12 seconds, and at times of feeding frenzy or the bleak rush hour he was landing a fish and getting his hook back in the water once every five seconds. He describes his style of fishing as continuous saluting. The *Angling Times* describes him as "a human windmill".

So we have to revise our image of the fisherman as a man of patience and guile, taking pains to change his bait or tie his flies. To rewrite Dr Johnson, the angler is no longer a jerk on one end of the line waiting for another jerk that never comes. Good fishing has become physical exercise like Indian Clubs or operating a pneumatic drill.

Records attract fishermen, who can dislocate more arms describing their catches than landing them. The lure of the record-book has put many a fish in a glass case instead of the frying-pan. But a record bleak would look puny even in a test tube. So bleak-fishing has become a race of number-crunching.

It comes as no surprise that this fast sport was invented by the Italians, who are generally regarded by the British as more volatile and less phlegmatic than themselves. Their designer gadgets of modern angling make Christmas presents for fishermen almost as easy as for golfers. But until now fisherman's elbow was never a threat to Izaak Walton. If fishing is to become a high-speed competition, we need a substitute leisure activity for the contemplative, something as lazy as a day in June. Teaching worms to swim on the end of a line, anyone?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Implications of 48-hour directive

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, It is difficult to take Mr Major seriously on the European working time directive (letters, November 12, 14), or indeed any European question, because, like Charlie Chaplin, he no sooner crawls out of one hole than he stumbles into another.

He banged the table in March 1994 on the number of votes needed to block a decision by the Council of Ministers but got nowhere. The same thing happened earlier this year with the beef war. The same thing will happen again with the working time directive.

What he has achieved is something quite different. Our partners are beginning to ask whether they want us in the club. A leading German weekly, *Die Zeit*, wrote on June 21:

> Thanks to mad cows and the export ban on British beef . . . one thing is clear. Either the 15 go on as they have done and steer Europe into a blind alley or progress is possible with fewer than the 15.

Similar thoughts have been expressed in the Belgian press.

This leads to the fundamental question which the rest of the Union will soon want answered. For most of them the destination is what one of the drafters of the Treaty of Rome, Pierre Uri, called "fiscal, social, monetary, and ultimately political union". Britain can no more stop this than could King Canute the tide. The question is whether we want wholeheartedly to join them on this journey or simply settle for a peripheral role.

Europe will not wait much longer. They are sick and tired of dragging along an unwilling partner. Our politicians need, in honesty to us and to our friends, to declare our colours if the rest of Europe is not to move ahead without us.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
194b Avenue de Tervuren,
1150 Brussels.
November 15.

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, In all the fuss over the European Court of Justice's judgment over the Council directive on aspects of working time one further point should be made — implementation and enforcement are the responsibility of national authorities. In our case that would probably be the Health and Safety Executive.

Past experience shows that in implementing EU health and safety measures the UK has imposed obligations on British firms which were not required by the original directives, for example, by including penalties such as fines or imprisonment.

I hope that when the House of Commons comes to consider the UK regulation to implement the working-time directive it will throw out anything which "gold plates" it, especially penalties, since there are none in the directive itself.

Why not do what other member States of the EU do — simply follow the exact text of the original directive? That would avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on British employers.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY (Conservative
Spokesman on Economic Affairs),
European Parliament,
97-113 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels.
November 14.

From Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP for Croydon North West (Labour)

Sir, It would be foolish if the European Court's judgment on the 48-hour working-week limit was debated purely in terms of the politics of Europe. A report, *Parenting in the 1990s*, published on November 4 by the Family Policy Studies Centre, examines the impact of employment patterns on family life. A major finding is that "more than one in four fathers worked 50 hours a week or more, and those who did were less involved in family activities". One in ten fathers works 60 hours or more a week.

The survey also revealed that two-thirds of the fathers sometimes worked in the evenings and six out of ten sometimes at weekends. Given that many mothers too work antisocial hours, the time available for both parents to be together in the family was often reduced.

These are significant lessons for public policy. How we enable British men and women to have worthwhile employment, while enabling them also to have decent family lives and be effective parents, is a vital question. The alleged "freedom" to exploit the British employee is an anti-family policy that we must resist.

Yours etc,
MALCOLM WICKS
(Opposition Social Security
Spokesperson on Family Policy),
House of Commons.
November 13.

Irish giants

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Mr D. Barton writes (letter, November 9) that the imposition of the English language on the Irish people, which he calls compulsory English, "gave us the giants of Irish literature". Not so. These giants were virtually all Anglo-Irish, who would have spoken English anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

British knowledge of Nazi atrocities

From Dr John P. Fox

Sir, Professor Richard Breitman's achievement in winkling out of the United States Government the transcripts of the telegraphic reports of the Nazi *Einsatzgruppen* killer squads in Russia in 1941 (report, "Britain knew Jews were being killed 'before Auschwitz' ") is to be applauded.

However, it should be recalled that in 1981 Professor F. H. Hinsley revealed that the British intelligence Enigma decrypts of German telegraphic traffic also included German police and security reports of their mass killing of Jews in Russia and the Ukraine in the autumn of 1941.

Summaries of those decrypts were submitted to Winston Churchill on a regular basis and these were eventually made available for public inspection at the Public Record Office, Kew, in November 1993. Three years ago my efforts to have transcripts of the decrypts themselves made available at Kew proved abortive.

In view of Professor Breitman's success in Washington, and of the nonsense that this makes of Britain's unwillingness or inability to release the British holdings of these documents, I have now written to the Prime Minister asking for their release.

Yours etc,
JOHN P. FOX
(Lecturer in Jewish history),
Jews' College, 44a Albert Road, NW4.

From Ms Gitta Sereny

Sir, The impression given by Professor Richard Breitman's remarks, as quoted in your report, is misleading. Presenting already well-known historical facts as new discoveries tends to diminish their substance and even to misrepresent them.

The murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Russia in 1941, well before the establishment of extermination camps, and the fact that many of the first killings were carried out by the German Ordnungspolizei, have been amply described in *Those Were The Days* and *God With Us* by Klee, Dressen and Riess (1988, 1992), in *Ordinary Men* by Christopher Browning (1992), in my own *Albert Speer, His Battle With Truth* (1995) and, however critical I was in my review (March 28, 1996), in *Hitler's Willing Executioners* by Daniel Goldhagen.

The East European murders, ordered by Hitler and carried out during the last six months of 1941, included not "only" about half a million Russian Jews, but many tens of thousands of non-Jewish Russian civilians — the political and cultural elite of dozens of conquered cities.

They also included most of the Jews (250,000 in Lithuania alone) and countless non-Jews in the three Baltic republics and Poland. It is true that many of these actions were originally carried out by native National Guards and later by the Ordnungspolizei. However, these organisations were under the control and command of the SS, and all their reports were signed by SS officers.

These murders have long been a matter of historical fact. It is still unclear when they were first recognised as being the start of the genocide of all European Jewry and of the systematic elimination of Eastern Europe's social, religious and cultural elite. The truth about British knowledge of these matters will not be found in German or Russian documents, but in Britain where it is as yet carefully hidden away.

Sincerely yours,
GITTA SERENY,
c/o Tessa Sayle Literary Agency,
11 Jubilee Place, SW3.
November 14.

Two minutes' silence

From the Moderator of the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Orkney

Sir, On Remembrance Sunday, I conducted two remembrance services in small rural parishes in this county, following which wreaths were laid at local war memorials (letters, November 7, 13). Other rural parish churches in our county did the same. At St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, and at Stromness, the Royal British Legion and other uniformed bodies attended substantial church parades. No doubt similar services occurred without national publicity the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, at which ex-servicemen and others gathered and stood in silent respect.

I was born in 1948, and have only a vague childish memory of the daytime silence for Armistice Day. I have, however, attended and led many remembrance services — indeed, I believe that for the last thirty years such services, together with the Earl Haig Fund's poppies, have kept the memory alive of the sacrifices of 1914-18 and thereafter. Leading worship for congregations that include people who have been under fire and lost friends is for me a profoundly moving experience.

In an age when church attendance is diminishing, I can understand the decision of the Legion to try to revive the midweek silence. No doubt those who attend the Sunday services are pleased to observe a second and personal remembrance on November 11.

I cannot but think, however, that it is a pity that our nation cannot listen to more than one message at a time — so that the call to silence on Monday this year swamped and, it seems to me, diminished in the public's esteem the multitude of acts of remembrance held as usual on the Sunday.

You report Charles Lewis, controller of communications at the Royal British Legion, as saying (November 11): "We know it will never take the place of the Remembrance Day ceremony in Whitehall. We are just calling for recognition of Armistice Day." I hope that, next year, the Legion's publicity will remember that such services are not confined to Whitehall.

Yours etc,
FRANK BARDGETT,
Moderator of the Church of
Scotland Presbytery of Orkney,
Daystar, Deerness, Orkney.
November 13.

From Mr Les Holley

Sir, Is it not time that the Remembrance Day ritual be laid to rest? I am certain that those who remain do not need a two minutes' silence or an annual ceremony at the Cenotaph to remember their loved ones. It is time to let go and move on.

Yours faithfully,
L. HOLLEY,
23a West Street,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.
November 11.

Crisis in Africa

From the Executive Director of Médecins Sans Frontières (UK)

Sir, I must challenge Sam Kiley's assumption (report, November 12) that a small aid convoy into the beleaguered Zairean town of Goma signals the start of a "fundraising frenzy" among aid agencies.

Despite the rebels' announcements to the contrary, aid agencies still have no access to the hundreds of thousands of people caught in the crossfire outside the town. Our main priority is access and security, not fundraising.

Mr Kiley refers to MSF as "French-based". It is, in fact, an international agency, with offices in 19 countries and relief operations in 70 others.

MSF has no links to the French Government, from which it accepts no donations, and has always been loudly critical of France's policy in Africa. As a matter of fact, our emergency department running this operation is based in Amsterdam.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE-MARIE HUBY,
Executive Director,
Médecins Sans Frontières (UK),
124-132 Clerkenwell Road, EC1.
November 12.

From the Ambassador of Rwanda

Sir, I commend Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss in his search for solutions to the conflict in Central Africa (letter, November 12). I just want to remind him that the situation in Rwanda is not "deteriorating rapidly"; it is rapidly improving two years after genocide.

Perhaps he meant to refer to the situation in Zaire, which is where the refugees who would benefit from Operation Snowdrop are.

Yours etc,
Z. NSENGA,
Embassy of Rwanda,
58-59 Trafalgar Square, WC2.

From Mr George Wang

Sir, Arguing for intervention in Zaire, Mr Richard Parsons (letter, November 9) questions whether we have "reached the stage where humanitarian concerns alone cannot motivate policy". Humanitarian concerns alone have *never* motivated any country's foreign policy.

Yours sincerely,
G. WANG,
University of Warwick,
Department of Politics
and International Studies,
Coventry CV4 7AL.

A calming influence

From Dr N. D. Whyatt

Sir, I fear that your correspondents have missed the point concerning weather, and especially shipping, forecasts (letters, November 2, 5, 11). I have often listened to the 0033, now the 0055, bulletin in the middle of the Channel, on a wet night, with the shrieks of wind and wife as background.

Many will agree that the essential ingredient for the announcer to convey content and meaning is the subtlety of diction. The very best in my view have been women.

Dilly Barlow, with her beautiful voice, used to convey the weather details and the impression she was tucking one up in bed very tenderly. Wonderful! Fenella Hadingham is pretty good too. Try staying up late and listening.

Yours faithfully,
N. D. WHYATT,
Rose Cottage, 12 Bowden Hill,
Lacock, nr. Chippenham, Wiltshire.
November 12.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Oxford obstacle to business school

From Mr John T. Hall

Sir, There are three main problems with the view (letter, November 11) that universities should return "to the days when the professional academic community had ultimate control over planning and development".

Academic staff are only one of several important groups, including students and the taxpayer, who have an interest in the success of our universities. Second, potential conflicts of interest should be treated with caution; as employees, academic staff have an undeniable financial interest in universities which is incompatible with objective and impartial policy-making. Third, the experience which they bring to higher education is uniquely that of scholars and not institutional planners or managers.

There may be a case for arguing that university planning and development should be made more responsive to academic staff and others. However, greater responsiveness should not be confused with a hand-over of power to the dons, which would hardly make universities the dynamic and outward-looking enterprises they should be.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN T. HALL
(Head, Education Law Department),
Eversheds (solicitors),
Senator House,
85 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
November 12.

From Mr Wafic Said

Sir, I fear that my inexperience in talking to journalists may have led me inadvertently to mislead your readers. In telling Valerie Grove (interview, November 13) that I had not offered a benefaction to Cambridge University to help develop its business school because somebody got there first, I was giving a flippant reply.

Although I support a number of scholarships at Cambridge (report, November 13), they never approached me in connection with their business school, which has been handsomely supported by Sir Paul Judge. I was specifically approached by Oxford in relation to their business school and was impressed by their concept of a close integration between management studies and the life of the rest of the university.

This is the project I want to support; it is not a second best.

I apologise for any confusion I may have caused.

Yours faithfully,
WAFIC SAID,
27 Avenue Princesse Grace,
MC-98000, Monaco.
November 13.

From Mr Christopher Taylor

Sir, Management in the 21st century will mean the direction of dispersed units — machines in different countries, people in their homes — towards a common end. With modern communications, an organisation does not need a central site; nor should Oxford University's business school.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,
5 Park Crescent, Cuddington,
Northwich, Cheshire.
November 12.

VAT on listed buildings

From Mr R. E. Howard-Vyse

Sir, I warmly applaud the call from Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, for traditional roofing materials to be preserved (report, November 14).

As one responsible for a number of Grade II listed buildings, some with stone roofs, I appreciate that his funds are not sufficient to grant aid for their repair, but he might consider the following anomaly: whereas standard-rate VAT is levied and not generally reclaimable on the cost of maintaining listed buildings, the cost of altering such buildings is zero-rated.

Some time ago, just after I had paid a bill for replacing several non-standard and expensive window frames, I met a lady who was delighted that the cost of altering her listed barn into an indoor swimming pool was zero-rated. You may imagine my feelings.

I hope Sir Jocelyn will join me in lobbying the Government to make the maintenance of listed buildings zero-rated for VAT, thereby helping those whose costs are inflated by statutory listings, against which there is, as yet, no appeals procedure.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HOWARD-VYSE,
The Estate Office, Langton,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
November 14.

1, 2, 3, testing

From Mr D. G. Cole

Sir, I was privileged to be present at the installation of Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, as President of the Academy of Experts, which was held in the engine room of Tower Bridge on November 6. Unfortunately, the microphone failed to work and, despite an appeal from the chairman, there was no one among the large number of member experts present, all with their own special skills, with the required expertise to make it function.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. COLE,
46 Gravel Road, Bromley, Kent.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 15: The Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) *was present at Heathrow* Airport, London, this evening upon the Departure of The President of the Republic of Latvia and Mrs Ulmane and bade them *farewell on behalf of The Queen.*

Her Majesty was represented by Sir George Edwards OM at the Memorial Service for Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle OM *which was held in Westminster* Abbey today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Professor Sir David Davies.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 15: The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, today attended the Cheltenham Countryside Race Day at Cheltenham Racecourse and was received *by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant* of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 15: The Prince of Wales this afternoon received The Presi*dent of the Republic of Latvia.*

His Royal Highness this evening held a Reception for American donors of the Gdansk Theatre Company.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the *'Touch of Tartan' Ball held at the* Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, in aid of the Society.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen (Mrs Margaret Farquhar).

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 15: The Duke of Kent attended a Memorial Service for Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle which was held in Westminster Abbey, London SW1, this afternoon.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, this evening attended a *Devonshire and Dorset Regiment*al Dinner, at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Royal engagements

TODAY: *Prince Edward will attend* the final of the Bathurst Cup at the Leamington Tennis Court Club at 5.00 followed by the sesquicentennial dinner in the Town Hall, Royal *Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.*

Reception

Old Mercers' Club
Mr Harry Price, President of the Old Mercers' Club, and Mrs Price, welcomed Old Mercers and their guests at a reception held last night at the International Shakespeare Globe Centre, Southwark.

Service dinners

Minewarfare & Clearance Diving Officers' Association
Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, Deputy Commander Fleet, was the *principal guest at the annual dinner* of the Minewarfare & Clearance *Diving Officers' Association held* last night in *HMS Excellent.* Commander J.W. Arrow, Superintendent of Diving for the Royal Navy and chairman of the association, presided.

41 Commando Royal Marines
Mr F.C. Hayhurst of the 41 Indepen*dent Commando Association was the* principal guest at the annual dinner of the 41 *Commando Royal Marines* Officers' Dinner Club held last night in Lympstone. Major C.E. Walker presided.

The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment
The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, attended the annual dinner of the officers' association held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club. General Sir John Wilsey, Colonel of the Regiment, presided. *Viscount Cranborne,* Honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion, the Ven J.J. Holliman, Archdeacon for the Army, and Brigadier R.S. Tailyour, Commandant Devon ACT, were among the guests.

HAC
Brigadier F.R. Viggers was the principal guest at the *annual dinner* of II Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, held last night at Armoury House. Major A.H.S. Gabb, Squadron Commander, presided.

49 Infantry Division/ 49 Infantry Brigade
Brigadier Peter Stevenson was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Polar Bear Dinner Club (49 Infantry Division/49 Infantry Brigade) *held last night* at Chetwynd Barracks, Nottinghamshire. Brigadier *Johnny Walker presided.*

Army Cadet Force Association
General Sir Roger Wheeler was the principal guest at the annual members' dinner of the Army Cadet Force Association held last night at the *Duke of York's Headquarters*, Chelsea. General Sir Peter de la Billière presided.

Dinner

Midland and Oxford Circuit
Mr James Hunt, QC, Leader of the Midland and Oxford Circuit, presided at a Bar Mess dinner held *last night at Middle Temple Hall to* honour the former leader. Mr *Richard Wakerley, QC,* and to mark the silver anniversary of the combined Midland and Oxford Circuits and the appointments of Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord *Justice Judge and Mr Justice Astill.*

Sir Magdi Yacoub, the surgeon, is 61 today

Martin Scorsese, film director: 54 tomorrow

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Peter Ainsworth, MP, 40; *Mr Frank Bruno, boxer,* 35; Mr Willie Carson, jockey, 54; Lord Fairhaven, 60; Mrs Zina Garrison-Jackson, tennis player, 33; Professor Malcolm Jeeves, president, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 70; Viscount Goschen, 31; Sir John Hanson, Director-General British Council, 58; Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, *British Airways,* 63; *the Duke of* Northumberland, 40; Professor W.G Overend, former Master, Birkbeck College, 75; Mr Griff Rhys Jones, actor, writer and producer, 43; Sir Giles Shaw, MP, 65; Mr John G. Stenhouse, former chairman, Stenhouse Holdings, 88; Canon H.J. Stuart, former chaplain-in-chief, RAF, 70; *Sir Edward Tomkins,* diplomat, 81; Mr David Wilson-Johnson, baritone, 46; Professor Michael Zander, professor of law, 64.

TOMORROW: Ms Lesley Abdela, founder, all-Party 300 Group for women in Politics and Public Life, 51; Sir Jeremy Beecham, chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 52; Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, 64; *Dr S.L. Bragg, aeronautical en*gineer, 73; Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP, 52; Dr G. Bulmer, former Rector, Liverpool Polytechnic, 76; Lord Craigmyle, 73; Mr Danny DeVito, actor, 52; Mr John Dobson, tenor, 66; *Mr James Dunnachie,* MP, 66; Mr David Emanuel, fashion designer, 44; Miss Fenella Fielding, actress, 62; Mr Michael Freeman, orthopaedic surgeon, 65; the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, former president, Methodist Conference, 78; General *Sir Charles Guthrie,* 58; *Mr* Jeremy Hanley, MP, 51; Mr P.R.S. Harmack, comptroller general and chief executive, The Patent Office, 54; Mr Colin Hayes, painter, 77; Professor Anthony King, *Professor of Government,* Essex University, 62; Mr J.L. Lowther, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, 73; Sir Charles Mackerras, conductor, 71; Professor Ravinder Maini, rheumatologist, 59; Sir Leslie Murphy, former non-*executive director, PEL Group,* 81; Mr Richard Parham, managing director, Peugeot Motor Company, 52; Lord Polwarth, 80; Professor L.H. Rees, former Dean, St *Bartholomew's* Hospital Medical College, 54; Mr Jonathan Ross, broadcaster, 36; the Right Rev John Satterthwaite, former Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, 71; Dr David *Saul, Premier of Bermuda,* 57; Mr John Wells, writer, actor and director, 60; *Earl of Winchilsea,* 60.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: John Bright, anti-Corn Laws campaigner, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1811; Paul Hindemith, composer, Hanau, Germany, 1895; Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, London, 1896.

DEATHS: King Henry III, reigned 1216-72, London, 1272; Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed, London, 1499; James Ferguson, *astronomer,* London, 1776; John Walter, founder of *The Times*, *Teddington, Middlesex,* 1812; *Tyrone* Power, actor, Madrid, 1958; Clark Gable, actor, Hollywood, 1960; William Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free *State 1922-32, Dublin,* 1965.

Jack Sheppard, highwayman, was executed at Tyburn, London, 1724.

The Soviet Union launched *Venus III*, an unmanned spacecraft, that *successfully landed on Venus,* 1965.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Sieur de la Vérendrye, explorer and fur trader, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, 1685; Jean le Rond d'Alembert, mathematician, Paris, 1717; Louis XVIII, King of France 1795-1824, Versailles, 1755; August Mobius, astronomer, Schulpforta, *Germany,* 1790; *Bernard* Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, London, 1887; Rock Hudson, actor, Winnetka, Illinois, 1925.

DEATHS: Queen Mary I (Mary Tudor), reigned 1553-58, London, 1558; Robert Owen, social reformer, Newtown, Powys, 1858; Auguste Rodin, sculptor, Meudon, France, 1917; Eric Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, Harefield, Uxbridge, 1940.

The first women to graduate in Britain received their Bachelor of Arts degrees from London University, 1880.

Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, OM

The Queen was represented by Sir George Edwards, OM, FRS, and the Duke of Edinburgh by Professor Sir David Davies, FRS, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, OM, FRS, held yesterday in Westminster Abbey.

The Duke of Kent read the second lesson. Prince Michael of Kent was represented by Sir Peter Masefield.

The Dean of Westminster officiated, assisted by the Rev Barry Fenton, Precentor. Lord Kings *Norton read the first lesson and* Captain E.M. Brown, RN, read *Flight* by Mr Brian Young.

Mr Ian Whittle, son, paid tribute and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, gave an address.

During the service Sir Frank's medals were borne in procession from the West End of the Church to the Sacrarium by 1st Officer *Kerry Lomas of British Airways and* Pilot Officer Adrian Everett of RAF Cranwell.

The Prime Minister was represented by Earl Howe, who also represented the Secretary of State for Defence. The American Ambassador was represented by Colonel Frederick E. Bush, Air Attaché.

The Chief of the Naval Staff was represented by Rear-Admiral *D.J.* Wood and the Vice Chief of the Air Staff by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire was represented by Major-General M.E. Carleton-Smith. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, the *Lord Mayor and* Lady Mayoress of Coventry, the Mayor of Lutterworth, the Mayor of Rugby and Mrs Humphries, and the Mayor of Leamington Spa attended.

Among others present were:

Lady Whittle (widow), Mr and Mrs Ian Whittle (son and daughter-in-law), Mr Jason Whittle and Miss Leonie Whittle (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Albert *Whittle (brother and sister-in-law),* Mr and Mrs Paul Clavelle (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter), Mr Jeffrey Clavelle and Brian Clavelle (stepgrandsons), Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Pritchard, Mrs J Haydon, Miss Margaret Lawrence, Mr Edward Asselly and other members of the family.

Marshal of the RAF Lord and Lady Craig of Radley, Lord Moore of Lower Marsh (director, Rolls-Royce) with Sir Ralph Robins (chairman), Mr J E V Rose, Mr Charles Blundell and Mr S Miller; Lord Morris and Squadron Leader H G Pattison (247 Association), Lord King of Wartnaby (president, British Airways) and Sir Colin Marshall (chairman), Lord Prior (GEC), Lord Haythoe, Lord Orr-Ewing, Lord Tebbit, CH, (president, Air League), Baroness Platt of Writtle, Baroness O'Cathain.

Sir Geoffrey Pattie, MP, Sir Cranley Onslow, MP, Helen Lady Dudley-Williams, Marshal of the RAF Sir Denis and Lady Spotswood, Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael and Lady Beetham, Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Wilson, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Alcock, Air *Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten,* Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard and Lady Johns, Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, Air Chief *Marshal Sir Douglas and Lady Lowe,* Air Chief Marshal Sir John and Lady Aiken.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy (president, Old Cranwellian Association) and Lady Kennedy, Air Chief Marshal Sir *Michael Knight (chairman, Air League),* Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough, Air Marshal Sir David and Lady Cousins, Air Marshal Sir Eric Dunn (patron, Cranwell *Apprentices Association)* and Lady Dunn, Air Marshal Sir Timothy and Lady Garden, Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, Sir Richard Young, Air Marshal Sir Charles Pringle.

Air Commodore Sir Archibald Winskill, Air Commandant Dame Felicity Peake, Lady Graydon, Lady Davies, Lady Masefield, Sir John Horlock, FRS, (treasurer, Royal Society), Sir Edward Ford *(Secretary and Registrar of the Order* of Merit), Sir William Barlow (Royal Academy of *Engineering)* and Lady Barlow, Sir Adrian Swire (chairman, RAF Benevolent Fund), Sir Donald and Lady Spiers, Sir Austin Pearce, Lady Francis, Sir William Hawthorne, FRS, Sir Arnold Hall, FRS, and Lady Hall.

Sir Denis Rooke, FRS, Sir Gordon Beveridge (The Queen's University, Belfast), Sir Basil Blackwell, Sir Michael Cobham, Sir John Dent, Sir Robert Evans (British Aerospace), Professor Sir Hugh Ford, Sir Martin Gilbert, Sir Anthony Gill, Sir James Hamilton, Professor Sir *Alan Harris, Sir Frank Holroyd, Sir Eric* Mensforth, Sir John Meurig Thomas.

Brigadier-General R M Leonard (US Army), Rear-Admiral Kenneth Snow (Receiver General, Westminster Abbey), *Rear-Admiral D J Wood (representing the* First Sea Lord), Air Marshal and Mrs A J C Bagnall, Air Marshal G A Robertson, Air Marshal P T *Squire, Air Vice-Marshal* Harold Bird-Wilson, Air Vice-Marshal N B Baldwin (president, RAF Historical Society), Air Vice-Marshal Bertrand Brownlow, Air Vice-Marshal J M P *Calman, Air Vice-Marshal D G Campbell,* Air Vice-Marshal Geoffrey Carleton, Air Vice-Marshal P D Clark (Minerva Society).

Air Vice-Marshal P Dodworth (chairman, RAF Club), Air Vice-Marshal P J Harding (Defence Services Secretary), Air Vice-Marshal N Howlett, Air Vice-Marshal D A Hurrell (38 Group), Air Vice-*Marshal T I Jenner, Air Vice-Marshal C P* Lumb, Air Vice-Marshal E H Macey, Air Vice-Marshal Maisner (Polish Air Force Association), Air Vice-Marshal J A G May, Air Vice-Marshal B H Newton, Air Vice-Marshal P C Norriss, Air Vice-Marshal P J O'Reilly (president, Ordnance Board), Air Vice-Marshal J Price.

Air Vice-Marshal A L Roberts, Air Vice-Marshal C R Spink (11 Group), Air Vice-Marshal A J *Stables* (Cranwell), Air Commodore J Broughton (Aircrew Association), Air Commodore D E *Caldwell, Air Commodore G J B Claridge,* Air Commodore A J B Clements, Air Commodore M J Evans, Air Commodore L Lawrence (RAF Museum), Air Commodore D K Norriss, Air Commodore *W J J Northmore.*

Group Captain E Chingosho (RAF Zimbabwe), Group Captain John Cunningham, E J Goodman, Group Captain R T W Mighall, Lieutenant-Colonel A J C Gordon, Wing Commander G J Sibbald, (RNZAF), Wing Commander D G Bleach (247 Squadron Association), *Wing Commander G R T Morgan* (Welsh Livery Company), Wing Commander R F Martin, Squadron Leader A Haslam, Squadron Leader, I D Roxburgh.

Mr D Abbott, Mr G F W Adler, Mr G Aird, *Mr S Allerton, Mrs S Anscombe,* Brigadier J R Appleton, Mr F W Armstrong, Mr R Ashford, Wing Commander D M K Atherley, Mr A F Atkins, Mr R Atkinson, Mrs A Baker, Mr P P Baker, Mr P *Barnes-Wallis, Mr J A Barrett, Dr D J* Battison, Mr John Berten, M P Betim, Lieutenant-Commander G R Blackburn, Mr and Mrs G W Bone, Dr S Boyle, Mr L G Brennan, Captain E M Brown, RN, Mrs A Bush, *Mr B R R Butler, Mr J Butler, Dr P H* Calder, Professor C R Calladine, M Jean Calmon, Captain J Cameron, Captain G L Capel, *Mr E B Carter, Dr J A Catterall,* Councillor G W Chambers.

Mr L W L Chelton, Mr M Coley, Miss D Colley, Mr L R Colquhoun, Mr E Cossey, Mrs A Cotterell, Mr I L Craig-Wood, Mr J D Cunningham, *Mr Jim Cunningham,* MP, Mr P J Davies, Mr H Davies, Mr D G Davies, *Mr K Davis, Mr J S Davison,* Mr R A Day, Captain F H Dell, Dr A A Denton, Dr R W Ditchfield, Mr M Donne, Mr W Downey, *Mr G Dunn, Captain P Dyson,* Mr R Edwards, Professor R L Elder, Professor D M Embrey, Mr M W J Erwell, Mr M H Evans, Mr D W Evans, Dr T J Evans, Mr R Everitt, Mr C Fairhead, Mr W Fairney, *Mr J F Farley, Professor M G Farley,* Dr M J Farmery, Professor J E Ffowcs Williams, Mr and Mrs G B R Fielden.

Mr R T W Fiennes, Mr G Foggon, Dr M Popp, Professor Max Fordham, Mr and *Mrs Roy Fowkes, Captain and Mrs J* Fowkes, Mr M A Francis, Mr J J G Francke, Mr M L P Frewin, Mr I R Frost, Mr F G L Fry, Mr K T Fulton, Professor D Gardner, Mr W F Gibb, Mr G Golley, Mr R G Goodall, *Mr R T Gooderidge, Sister Mary Grace* Green, Mr R M Green, Mr J Gregory, Mr P G Griffiths, Mr H A Griffiths, Mr A E Gumm, Mr W T Gunston, Mr G T Hall, Mrs U Hall, Mr R C Hallett, Mr F G Hammond, *Mr A Hanscombe,* Mr J Harris, Mr M Harvey, Professor G R Harvey, Mr J-D Hastie, Dr H T Hayward, *Mr P A Hearne,* Mr A Henshaw, Mr T Heeden.

Professor J Heyman, Mr Hugh Hillier, Professor Peter Hills, Dr W F Hilton, Dr G S Hislop, Mr J Hodge, Mrs J Holden, Mr D Hollingsworth, Mr J Hollingwood, Mr R C Hooker, Mr D Hopkins, Mr J Horsburgh, *Mr J J Hosken, Mr W F Houstoun,* Mr R G Huggett, Mr I P Hunt, Mr J Iremonger, Mr H Irwin, Mr B James, Mrs A Jeffries, Dr D A Jones, Mr G Jones, Mr A E B Kearsey, Mr R J Kennett, Mr T H Kerr.

Mr R Kettell, Mr Alan Kind, Mr B M King, Councillor B Kirton, Mr P G Knight, Mr B P Laight, Mr H Leach, Mr J E Lee, Mr T R Llewellyn, Dr E H Mansfield, FRS, Mr F O Marsh, Mr D A A Marshall, *Mr M Marshall, Mr D S Martin, Mr J S* Martin, Mr P Martin, Mr Gene Mashian, *Mr K McAuley, Mr I G McCowan,* Mr E L Meeson, Mr J Merchant, Mr R Metcalfe, Dr H Metcalfe, Mr P Miller, Mr P Millett, Mr N P W Moore, Mr E J Moores.

Mr D W Morgan, *Mr J D Mortimer,* Mr J F C Muggeridge, *Mr M C Muir, Mr A H* Mulrson, Dr G J Murphy, Mr S Mustow, Mr A Nahum, Mr M C Neale, Mr M J Neale, Dr A Neville, Professor D E Newland, Mr M Noakes, Dr T J Parker, Mr E Pearce, Mr S Pelanis, *Mr N Penny,* Professor D I A Poll, Dr G G Pope, Mr F C Price, Mr Tim Proctor, Mr B J A Quinn, Mr *M Ramsden, Mr A Ray, Mr F A Redfern,* Mr J B Roberts, Mr Iain Roxburgh, Professor C Ruiz, Mr J Shorten, Mr A Simpson, Mr J M Spencer.

Mr M Spencer, Mr A D R Simpson, *Professor R Singh,* Mr J F M Smallwood, Mr R Smallwood, Mr J L Smith, Mr A Smith, Dr C P Smith, Mr J R Smoker, Dr P *Steele, Professor I L Storey, Mrs J Sutton,* Dr A R Swanton, Mr L S Thayer, Mrs F M Thomas, *Mr A Thomas, Mr S R P Thom*son, Mr G L Thomson, Dr G Thomson, Mr A W Tichbon, Mr M Townsend, Mr R Trubshaw, Professor A B Turner, Mr F Twiss, Mr G V Tyack, Captain B O Walpole, Mr J T Webb, Mr N Westwood, *Mr A Whart, Mr B Wheeler, Mr R J A* White, Mr P J Williams, Mr John Wilkinson, MP, Mr R O Windley, Mr C E Woodcock, Mr J W Woodcock, Dr G J M Woodrow, Mr J G Wootton, Mr G Worrall, Dr J D Wragg, *Mrs D J Wood.*

Professor A N Broers (Cambridge University), Professor M J Underhill (representing the Vice-Chancellor of Surrey University), Professor J J McGuirk (London University), *Professor C Aitchi*son (Brunel University), Professor T R Crossley (Salford University), Professor N *N Dawes (Whittle Laboratory, Cambridge* University), Professor P Grootenhuis (Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine), Professor F R Hartley (Cranfield University), Mr J P Balaguer *(Pratt and Whitney) and Mrs Balaguer,* Mr R H H Barr (Centrax), Mr Edward Bishop *(The Daily Telegraph),* Mr M Rutherford *(Financial Times), Mr* Thor Valdmanis *(Evening Standard),* Mr R Bevan (Cathay Pacific), Mr J Bryce (Vickers Armstrong), Mr D Burrell (Martin Baker), Mr B Clarke (Racal Electronics), *Mr* V A Cowan (Allen & Overy).

Dr W Rizk and Mr E P Davies *(Institute of Mechanical Engineers),* Mr R Dobson (Institution of Civil Engineers), Mr E A Edwards (Messier-Dowty), Councillor Joy Evans (Warwick District Council), Professor J E Green (president, Royal Aeronautical Society) and *Mrs Green,* Mrs S Hollands (Vickers), Mr G M Hutchinson (Docklands Light Railway), Mr S M John (British Midland), Mr R J Madden (McDonnell Douglas), *Mr J W* Martin (MEA).

Dr P Melville (Institute of Physics), Captain R Nilsen (American Airlines), Mr G F Page (Cobham), Mr N M Parker (Royal Greenwich Observatory), Mr A F D *Simms (Fleet Air Arm), Mr K Smith (Air* 2000), Mr R P Smith (Midland Air Museum), Mr G Smith (Lutterworth *Museum), Mr J Taylor,* MP, (DTI), Professor N A Warner (School of Chemical Engineering), Mr R Watson (Esso UK), Mr W H Whittle (109 Squadron), Mr P G W Whybrow (React Group), Professor G L Wilde (Whittle Engine Test).

Past colleagues from Power Jets, de Havilland, the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, Hawker Siddeley, the Royal Bank of Scotland, *Aviation Week,* the *Press Association, 70 Squadron, Lucas* Industries, Sotheby's, the Burton Group, Shell Aviation, with other representatives of companies and organisations connected with Sir Frank and many *friends were also present.*

After the service there was a fly-past, in honour of Sir Frank Whittle, by four Tornados from 111 Squadron RAF Leuchars, and two Meteors.

Mr Jim Andrew

A memorial service in celebration *of the life of Mr Jim Andrew,* Clifton College's cricket professional for 30 years, was held yesterday in the college chapel.

The Rev Peter Dill, chaplain, officiated and Miss Karen Andrew, daughter, gave an introduction. Mr Richard Holdsworth, Youth Development Officer for Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and Secretary of *the Old Cliftonian Cricket Club,* read the lesson. Mr Harold Jarman, Mr Douglas Henderson, Director of Drama and Master-in-Charge of Cricket at the college, and Mr Don Gooding gave addresses.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir Brooke Fairbairn and Mrs V. Washbourn
The engagement is announced between Sir Brooke Fairbairn, Bt, of Barkway House, Newmarket, and Mrs Victoria Washbourn, of Walnut Tree House, Exning, Suffolk.

Mr J.P. Raspin and Miss S.J. Lynas
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Raspin, of *Birstwith,* North Yorkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr John Lynas, of *Paddock Wood, Kent,* and Mrs Susan Lynas, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D.M. Selden and *Miss J.C. Varley*
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and *Mrs Roger* Selden, of Pyrford, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Varley, of Woking, Surrey.

***Mr S.W. Smith* and Miss H.T. Magnusson**
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Dr and Mrs K. Wayne Smith, of Newton, North Carolina, and *Therese,* daughter of the late Mr Kjell M. Magnusson and of Mrs Eva B.H. *Magnusson,* of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Mr G.R. Weston and Miss G.M. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Grant Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Weston, of *East Preston,* West Sussex, and Gabrielle Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Morgan, of Haslemere, Surrey.

The King's School OKS Association

If you are a member of the above and have not received your copy of the *Annual Review within the* last few months, you may have moved and failed to notify the Association *of your change of address.* A new Handbook is shortly to be published so please inform us of your address and any news you would like to share. Please contact: Mrs P. Fryer, OKS Administrator, The King's School, Canterbury CT1 2ES. Tel 01227 595669.

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

The Sternberg Clinical Innovation Award was presented by Sir Sigmund Sternberg to Margo Sharp and Carole Pound at the College yesterday.

Church services tomorrow

Sixth Sunday before Christmas

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch. Hereford Service (Lloyd). Holy is the true light (Shephard). The Provost; 6.30 Choral ES. Tomkins 5th Service. Alleluia I heard a voice *(Weelkes).*

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch. Rutter in D. O for a closer walk with God (Foster). Canon J Barton; 3.15 Choral E. Noble in B minor. Save us O Lord (Bairstow).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: *10 HC; 11 Choral* Communion. Stanford in B flat & F. O Living Bread (Whitlock); 3.30 Choral E. Stanford in A. The Lord is my shepherd (Rutter).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 *Choral Euch. O praise the name* (Tchaikovsky). O salutaris hostia (Sumsion). Rev D Lee; 4 Choral E. Walmisley in D minor. The Lord hath been mindful (Wesley).

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 M. Collegium Regale (Howells). O for a closer walk with God (Stanford). Canon P Jackson: 3.30 E. The Eighth Service (Weelkes). Thou wilt keep him in *perfect peace (Wesley).*

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch. Missa brevis (Ives). O for a closer walk (Stanford). Canon A Redfern: 3.30 Choral E. Kelly in C. O how glorious (Harwood). Canon J Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *9.30 M. Rev G* Cameron; 11 S Euch. Mass (Frank Martin). O sacrum convivium (Messiaen). The Dean. 12.30 Holy Baptism; 3.15 E. Collegium Regale (Howells). Lord thou hast been our refuge *(Vaughan Williams); 6.30 Compline. Rev P Brett.*

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 7.45 M; 10.30 S Euch. Stanford in C. Bread of heaven (Wadley). Canon T Park; 3 E. Installation & Commissioning. Ireland in F. Os justi (Bruckner).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: *7.45 Litany;* 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch. Missa Brevis in F (Mozart). Canon M Rees; 11.30 Choral M. Collegium Regale (Howells). O pray for *the peace* of Jerusalem (Howells). Canon R Morris: 3.30 Choral E. Stanford in C. O for a closer walk with God (Stanford); 6.30 Evening. Canon J Newcome.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Britten *in C. Almighty God who hast me brought (Ford).* Rev R Robinson. 11 S Euch. Messe Solonnelle (Langlais). Tantum ergo (Faure). Ven D Fleming. *Chaplain General to Prisons; 3.30 E. Howells in* G. The souls of the righteous (Nares).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon. Collegium Regale (Howells). Archdeacon of Oxford; 11.15 S Euch. Missa Brevis *(Palestrina). Sicut cervus (Palestrina). Canon* Jeffery; 6 E & College Prayers. Magdalen Service (Leighton). Praise our Lord (Byrd).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch. Missa Brevis (Mozart). *Kyrie (Mozart).* Ven I Russell; 3 *Road Accident* Victims; 5.30 E. Thou knowest Lord (Purcell). Since by man came death (Handel).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon M Perry; 10 M. The Short Service (Byrd). Go down Moses (arr *Tippett). Canon D Hodgson;* 11.15 HC. Missa super Bell amfitrit' altera (Lassus). Canon M Perry; 3.30 E. Stanford in A. Let all the world (Vaughan Williams).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. *Rev Prof D* Martin; 9.45 S Euch. Missa Surge Propera (Victoria). Ave verum (Byrd). Rev V Stock. Canon Dr M Palmer: 11.15 M. Te Deum in B flat *(Stanford). Like as the hart (Howells). Dr D* MacMillan; 6.30 E. Second Service (Gibbons). Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener). Rev P Newman.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 *Euch. Ireland in C. O what their joy and their* glory must be (Harris). Rev I McIntosh; 3 Sharing the Pain. Pie Jesu (Lloyd Weber). Rev M Counsell.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Leighton). Jubilate in C (Stanford). *Tantum ergo (Durufle).* The Dean's Vicar; 3.30 E. Dyson in D. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: *7.30 M; 7.45 L; 8, 12.30* HC; 9.30 Family. Prayer for St Richard of Chichester (White), Prayer of St Francis of Assisi (Temple), The Precentor; 11.15 Solemn Requiem. The Subdean: 3.45 E & David Scott Memorial. *Sumsion in G. Thou wilt keep him in perfect* peace (Wesley). The Bishop.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch. The Dean: 3 Choral E. Canon N Vincent; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: *7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy* Euch. Rev M Tomlinson: 9 Parish Euch. Rev M Tomlinson, 11 S Euch. Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Come Holy Ghost (Attwood). The Dean: 12.15 HC: 3.30 Choral E. Walmisley in D minor. *Lord thou hast been our refuge (Bairstow).* Rev H Volker: Parish E & Sermon. Mr K Hall.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Missa Brevis in F (Haydn). Canon P Denby: 6 E. Walmisley in D minor. Canon P Denby.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC. The Archdeacon of Northumberland: 9.30 S Euch. Mozart in C KV258. The Archdeacon of Northumberland: 6 Choral E. 1st Service (Moore). Lord thou hast been our refuge (Walker).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 9.30 M. Te Deum in B flat (Harris). Jubilate (Shephard); 10.30 Euch. *Missa Aedis Christi* (Mathias). Morning glory (Rose). The Bishop of Brixworth. 3.30 E. Vann in E *minor, O pray for the peace of* Jerusalem (Howells).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch. Rev D Murfet; 9.30 Parish Euch. Sumsion in *F. Panis angelicus* (Franck). Ven J Oliver: 11.30 M. Darke in F. *Remember not Lord our offences* (Purcell); 12.30 Euch. Canon H Garside: 5.30 E. Stanford in F. For lo, I raise up (Stanford). Rev D Murfet.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M. Stanford in C. Thou knowest Lord (Purcell); 10.30 S Euch. Organ Solo Mass (Mozart). Ave verum (Mozart). Ven G Kuhrt: 3.15 E. Kelly in C. Te Deum (Haydn); 6.30 Confirmation Service.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S* Euch. Schubert in G. Here O my Lord (Whitlock). Mrs J Zunde: 3 Order of St John. The Bishop: 6.30 E & Sermon. Fleming in G. Ave Maria (Faure) Ven M Paton.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9 M; 10 S* Euch. Coronation Mass (Mozart). The Librarian; 6 E. Gloucester Service (Howells). Lord let me know mine end (Greene). Canon M Byrom.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon B *Baxter; 9.15 Parish Communion. Lord since in* Egypt (Parry). Canon D Baxter; 11 Solemn Euch. Britten in C. O taste and see (Vaughan Williams). *The Provost; 4 E. Wood in C minor. Hear my prayer* (Mendelssohn). Canon I Knox.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.45 S* Euch. Missa Johannes de Deo (Haydn). Rev P de Lucas; 11.30 M. Stanford in A. Expectans expectavi (Wood); 3 E. Service for Five Voices (Weelkes). *Let all the world* (Leighton). Rev G Walker.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M. Jubilate in C (Britten). View me Lord (Lloyd). Rev N Coates; 11.30 Euch. Mass for five voices (Byrd). *Levemus corda (Byrd); 3.30 E. Morrill in B.* Levemus corda (Byrd). Rev P Morgan.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch. Schubert in G. Very Rev R Furnell; 11.30 M. Ireland in F; 4 E. Harwood in A flat. Bring us O Lord God (Harris). *Rev A Bailey.*

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Stanford in B flat. Justorum Animae (Stanford). Canon in Residence; 3.30 Choral E. Insanae et Vanae Curae (Haydn).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 9.30* Cymun Bendigaid, Y Canon; 9.30 Parish Euch. The Minor Canon; 11.15 Choral M; Noble in B minor. Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons). The Dean; 6 Choral E. Sumsion in A. Salvator mundi (Blow). The Canon.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning. Cantate Domino (Byrd). Exsultate Justi (Viadana). Rev R Frazer; 6 Evening. David Thom.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch. Missa Christi (Leighton). O sacrum convivium (Messiaen). Ven G Cassidy; 3.15 E. Blair in B minor. Bring us O Lord God (Harris). Rev P *Huckle.*

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, *SW7:* 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Klevan and traditional polyphony. Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, *W1: 9 Communion;* 11 Canon G Bridger; 6.30 Communion Service. Rev R Bewes.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa douce memoire (Lassus). Look down O Lord (Byrd). Ave verum (Wilton).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, O God be merciful (Tye). Mr J Watherston; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev H McMahon.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Remembrance Service, *Mr J Jennings;* 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, *SW7:* 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass. Missa Dilexi quoniam (Palestrina). Beati omnes (Purcell); 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, O sacrum convivium (Gabrieli).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: *11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.*

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning. Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL *(Methodist),* SW1: 11 HC. *Rev M Broadbent;* 6.30 Rev E Fletcher.

ST ANNE AND *ST AGNES* *(Lutheran), Gresham* St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Bach Vespers. *Rev P Schmiege.*

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch & Baptism. The Rector; 6.30 E. Cesar's Service (Amner). Faire is the heaven (Harris). The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, *Fleet Street, EC4:* 11 Choral M & Euch, Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E. Wesley in E. Thou wilt keep him (Wesley). Lord Lester QC.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch. Mass in G (Schubert). Beati quorum via (Stanford). Ven R Turner. *Chaplain in Chief, RAF.*

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Rev A Cairns.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 9.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Mozart in C. The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, *Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch* (1662). R Sherlock.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch. Rev D Lawton; 6 Choral E. Short Service (Morley). Virga Jesse (Bruckner).

ST JAMES'S, *Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Sir N* Barrington; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family Communion. Prelude & Fugue in D (Bach). Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP & Praise. Rev J Meadway.

ST LUKE'S, *Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch. O God* thou art my God (Purcell). Rev J Hadley; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E. Rev G Beauchamp.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Communion; 11 S Euch. Missa Secunda *(Hassler). Cantate Domino (Pitoni).* Sunday School presents "Jonah".

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch. Rev P McGeary; 11.30 Visitors. The Vicar; 12.30 HC. Rev W Ratchford; 2.45 Chinese. Rev G *Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening.* Rev C Herbert.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch. Fr M Fuller; 11.15 *Choral M. Fr Gelli; 6.30 E. Fr Gelli.*

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, *SW1:* 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM. Missa Quand lo pens (Lassus). Fr G Reid; 6 Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch. Missa Vidi speciosam (Victoria). Jesu dulcis memoria (Drayton). Rev [illegible] Ovenden; 6 Taizé.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch. Missa Brevis (Walton). I was glad (Parry). The eyes of all wait upon thee. Canon I Kitteringham.

ST PETER'S, *Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC;* 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch. Mass for High Voices (Shaw). O salutaris hostia (Rossini). Fr D Tilyer.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Rev P Abram; 11 M & *Sermon. Jubilate (Gabrieli). O God thou art my* God (Purcell). Rev P Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. O how glorious (Harwood). Rev J Robson.

CHAPEL ROYAL, *Hampton Court Palace: 8.30* HC; 11 M. Moeran in B flat. My eyes for beauty pine (Howells); 3.30 E. Murrill in E. Thou wilt keep him (Wesley).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch. Plainsong Mass for a Mean (Sheppard). Hear the Voice and Prayer (Tallis). Rev S Hobbs.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Te Deum laudamus (Leighton). Jubilate Deo (Sowerby in B flat). Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers). Rev P King.

GUARDS CHAPEL, *Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11* M. Exultate Deo (Scarlatti). Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley). Band of the Coldstream Guards. Rev J Gough; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich. *SE10: 11 S Euch (BCP): Stanford in C. Not unto us* O Lord (Walmisley). Rev C French.

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You must work out your own salvation in fear and trembling for it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose. Philippians 2 : 12,13

BIRTHS

ATKINSON - To Clare (née Burrows) and David, on 12th November 1996, a son, Charles Anthony, a brother for Alexander.

BEVERIDGE - To Peter and Tanya (née Henson) birth of a son, Maximillian on 4th November 1996.

BOURNE - On 9th November, at St George's Hospital, London, to Gita (née Sharma) and Ian, a son, Joshua James, a brother for Natasha.

CORDEAUX - On November 5th, to Mary (née Jalf) and James, a daughter, Grace.

PHILLIPS - On 12th November, to Anna (née Lowe) and Andrew, a son, James Frederic Coventon.

TSITSIS - On November 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Jackie (née Townsend) and Menez, a beautiful daughter, a sister for Gregory.

DEATHS

BARNBY - The Reverend Canon peacefully in St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough, on November 14th, Bertram Louis aged 83 years. Beloved husband of the late Helen, dearest father of Andrew and Richard and a dear father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Columba Church, Scarborough, on Tuesday 19th November at 12 noon prior to cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers if desired to St Catherine's Hospice. Plate provided at the service or c/o B. Bernard & Sons, 1/5 Prospect Road, Scarborough.

BIRTHS

EVANS
RODERICK and DAWN
Are thrilled and delighted to announce
the birth of their darling son
Oliver William Roderick Evans
Born November 6th 1996, at 4.07 a.m.
Weighing 6lbs 4oz.
A Wonderful brother for Hannah and Alexandra.

DEATHS

BROCKHUES - Ursula N. Weber, Aicha and Alexander Grob, Alex and Jennifer Grob and his european friends have the deep sorrow to announce the departure *from the world of Prof.* Frederick B. Brockhues, Dr. Hon. Fellow SEH Oxford, Member of the Chancellors Court Oxford on November 2nd 1996. We all shall honour him in keeping him in good memory. According to his wish and last will he will be buried in the most intimate way. Persons wishing to make a donation may send it to the British Red Cross. Further to this announcement no obituary *notice will be posted.* Rothfluhstrasse 32 CH-8702 Zollikon.

BYWATER - On 11th November 1996 aged 73 *Annette Grace* (Anne), daughter of the late John S. and Annette Bywater, much loved sister of Christopher, peacefully while on holiday in Spain. Will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her. Cremation private. A celebration of her life is to be held at a later date in East Grinstead.

COOPER - Kathleen (Kitty) died peacefully at *Kilfillan* House, Berkhamsted, on November 14th aged 94. Widow of Andreas Priestland and Philip Cooper. Dearly loved mother of Barbara Evans and Sheila Cogill (deceased). Grandmother of Mark and Barbara Anne and great granny of Tom and Archie. Remembered with love and affection by her family and friends. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, on Thursday November 21st at 12 noon. No flowers, but donations if desired towards Cancer Research Campaign c/o George Allen, 21 Cowper Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. Enquiries to J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd., 01442 870326.

FLOOD - On November 13th 1996 suddenly and peacefully from coronary thrombosis, Nicola Marie, beloved eldest daughter of Antonia and Charles Flood, *sister of Rosemarie* and Diana and fiancée of Andrew. Requiem Mass at 10am on Thursday November 21st at the Church of Our Lady of Pity, Hazelwell Road, Putney, followed by the burial at Putney Vale Cemetery. May she rest in peace. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to the Diabetic Unit, Middlesex Hospital or St Peter's Kidney Research Trust.

GRAHAM - J.G. David of Chelsea, Solicitor of the Supreme Court, Gentleman, at home on 12th November 1996. Beloved husband of Margaret and father of Eleanor and Jean. Funeral *Service on Thursday 21st* November at 11 am at St *Andrew's, Park Walk,* Chelsea. No flowers please, donations to Westminster Boating Base.

HEWITT - Mildred Catherine *died on 4th November* aged 88. Service at Salisbury *Crematorium* on 19th November. Enquiries to Merefield & Henstridge, (01747) 853532.

HUNTINGFORD - Joanna (née *Castleden)* on 14th November, aged 77. Adored wife of Jonathan, fabulous mother of Barry, Geoffrey, Dickie and Didi, and doting granny. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving on Thursday, 21st November at St Giles' Church, Ickenham *at 12 noon. No flowers,* but donations, if desired, to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 61 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

KEATING - Thomas Forster aged 86 on 14th November peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Joan, father of Frankie and Hilly and much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Cotswold Care Hospice, *Minchinhampton,* Gloucestershire.

KENNING - Elizabeth peacefully on November 13th 1996 aged 93. Much loved aunt of David and Mary. Service at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday November 20th at 4 pm.

LEE - Daisy May, retired District Nurse and Midwife, peacefully in Seaford on 11th November 1996, aged 84. Much loved aunt of Anthony, Patrick and Terry, great-aunt of Berni, Cath, Emma, Gabs, Greg, Marcus, *Catherine, Christopher,* Becky, Matthew and Edward. Requiem Mass at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Seaford, on Friday 29th November 1996 at 12.15 pm. Flowers via Cooper & Son Funeral Directors, 19 Clinton Place, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1NP, tel: (01323) 492666.

MITCHELL - Robert OBE, MA, on November 12th 1996 aged 82. Naturalist, Swimmer, Businessman, Public Servant. Husband of Ronnie, *father of* Simon, Robert and Hugh. Thanksgiving and Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, High Road, Chigwell, Essex at 3.30 pm on Friday November 22nd. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

MONK - On Thursday November 14th 1996 in Roxburghe House, Dundee, after a long fight, Douglas C. Monk, loving husband of Mary, admired Dad of John, Jane and son-in-law Chris. Funeral Service on Thursday November 21st in St Mary's Episcopal Church, Broughty Ferry, at 1.30 pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Cremation thereafter private. Family flowers only but a collection in lieu of flowers will be gratefully received at the church in aid of BACUP (British Association of Cancer United Patients) and Roxburghe House.

NAIRN - Nora died peacefully after a short illness on November 13th 1996 at Epsom Hospital. Dearly loved by David and Jane, treasured grannie to Holly and Melody. Her personality and sense of humour will always be remembered. *Funeral Service at St James'* Church, Abinger Common, Dorking, *on November 20th* at 2 pm. Flowers or donations on behalf of Epsom Hospital welcomed. Enquiries to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking RH4 2ES. (01306) 882266.

PARDOE - Dr. Grace Pardoe Ph.D, D.Sc, FRSC, C.Chem, formerly of Oldbury West Midlands on November 8th in Botswana.

PHILLIPS - The Rev. Cyril James, on 14th November 1996 suddenly at home in Northampton, aged 92 years, after a full and active life. Beloved husband of *Lorraine, loving father of* Mary, Michael and Margaret and lovingly remembered by his five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

PILLET-WILL - Jacques, husband of Mary Elizabeth (née Mathew), suddenly in Paris on Friday 15th November 1996.

POLLARD - Peggy (née Gladstone) aged 93 peacefully 13th November. Leader of the Ferguson Gang 1920s. An outstanding brain. Cremation Tregunnas, Truro, 18th November.

ROSENTHAL - On 14th November in Cambridge, Elizabeth Charlotte, beloved wife of the late Dr. Erwin I.J. Rosenthal and mother of Tom and Miriam. Funeral private. *Memorial gathering* to be held in the new year.

SIXSMITH - *Early on 14th* November 1996 Mary Sixsmith, very peacefully after a short illness in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Born Alice Mary Birch on 4th December 1905, widow of her beloved Guy and loving mother of Diana Hasting and the late Philip with whom she is at *last reunited. She was* greatly loved and will be very much missed by Diana and Peter, by her grandchildren Giles, Crispin, Toby and Anabel and their partners, by her great-grandchildren Daniel, Rebecca, Philip and Freya, by her many relatives and by friends in Sutton Courtenay and elsewhere. Funeral at 1pm on Friday 22nd November in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay, followed by a farewell drink at The Abbey. Enquiries to Diana on 01235 834740.

TANFIELD - David Arthur, died in hospital on 13th November after a short illness. Funeral at midday on 22nd November at West London Crematorium, Kensal Green.

WITTS - On November 14th 1996 Rev. Cyril peacefully aged 82. Family flowers only. Enquiries to T. Free & Sons tel: (01672) 512110.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BRADBURY - Ernest. Music Critic (1919 - 1994). "The singing will never be done"

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GLYN-JONES - In Thanksgiving and in loving memory of Tatiana (Tania) Glyn-Jones a service will be held at [illegible], in Athens, Greece on Saturday 23rd November 1996 at 9.15 am.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

STEVENS - Constance Joan, November 16th 1980. Remembering with deep affection our darling Connie, beloved wife, mother and nanny. Sadly missed by Bill, Joan, David and the family.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BORTHWICK, Robert Colin, 21 Mylls Meadow, Stock, Essex, died 21st March 1996; particulars to Judge Sykes & Harrison, 9 Kingsway, London WC2B 6YF, before 31st January 1997.

CARTER Helen May of 6 Helen Court 269 Bath Road, Reading Berkshire died on 5th October 1996 Particulars to Serjeant & Sheppard Solicitor(s) of 160 Friar Street Reading, Berkshire RG1 1HE before 21st January 1997

TRUSTEE ACTS

DAVIES, IVY of 17 Kelmore Grove, East Dulwich, London SE22 died on 12 July 1996 particulars to HARRISONS Solicitors of BLENHEIM HOUSE, BLENHEIM GROVE, PECKHAM LONDON SE15 4QX before 17 January 1997

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 006144/1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
MR REGISTRAR BUCKLEY
IN THE MATTER OF
Elizabeth Jaffar Designs Limited
AND IN THE MATTER OF
The Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 14th day of November 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £100,000 to £12,500.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 27th day of November 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 15th day of November 1996
Messrs. Carter Lemon,
11 Breams Buildings,
London,
EC4A 1HB
Solicitors for the above-named Company

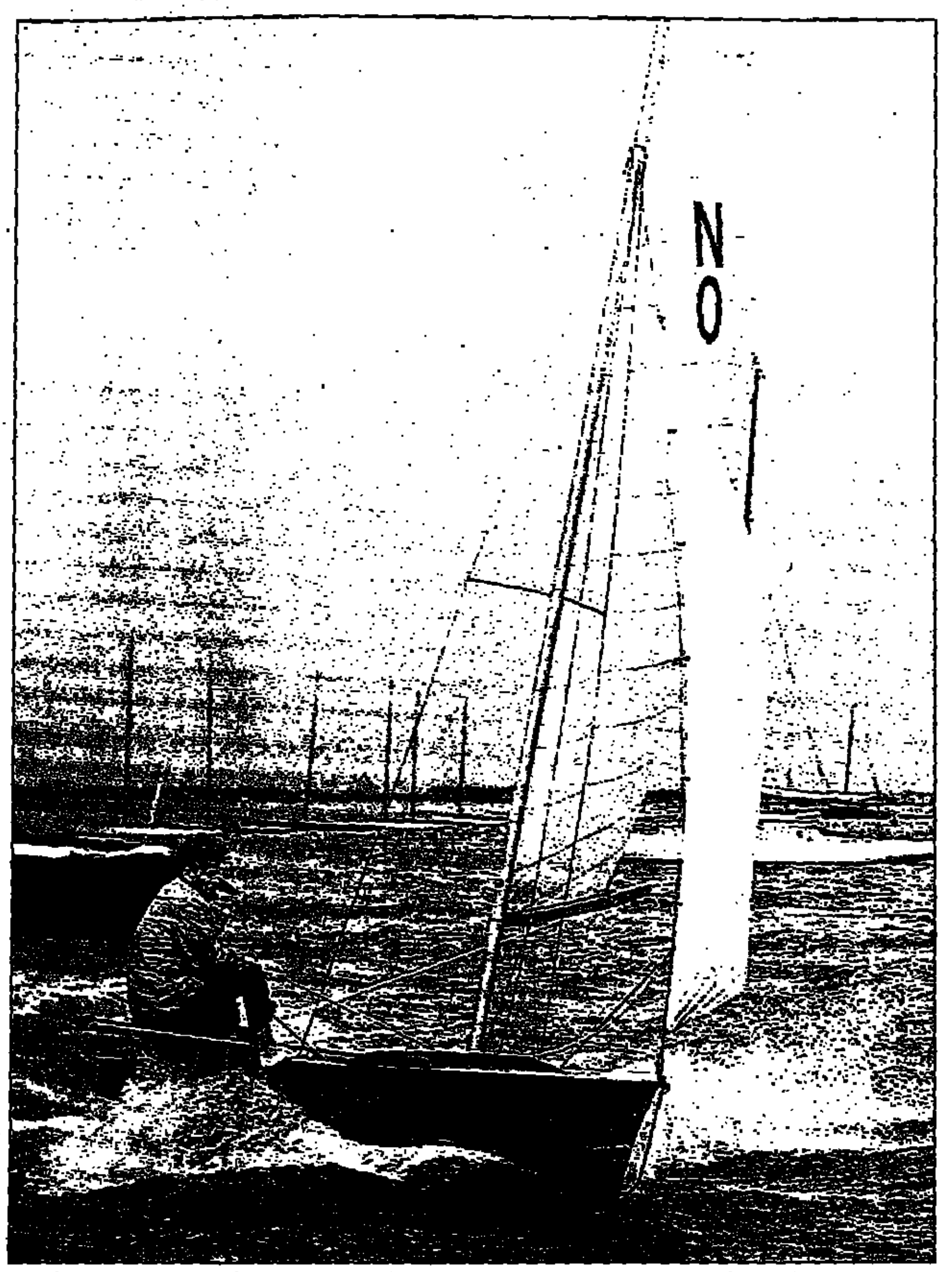
PUBLIC NOTICES

JONES ALICE AMELIA of Maes Crossing Cottage, Criccieth, Gwynedd died on 20th October 1996 particulars to WILLIAM GEORGE & SON of 103 HIGH STREET, PORTHMADOG, GWYNEDD LL49 9EY before 18th January 1997.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

OBITUARIES

BEECHER MOORE


Jack Holt and Beecher Moore sailing the prototype Hornet dinghy with its trapeze

Beecher Moore, yachtsman and yacht designer, died in London on November 11 aged 90. He was born in Rochester, New York, on September 10, 1906.

An American who was much involved with British yacht and dinghy design, Beecher Moore is credited with inventing the dinghy trapeze and the cockpit self-bailer, now used universally on fast racing craft worldwide. He backed and inspired the late British dinghy designer Jack Holt to develop more than 50 sailing classes.

Moore eventually made England his home after a childhood spent commuting to and fro across the Atlantic with his father who had business interests in London and New York. However, he will be best remembered for his quiet influence behind the scenes in encouraging Holt to design the first plywood do-it-yourself kit dinghies like the Enterprise, GP14, Cadet, Hornet and Solo in the 1950s. He also, through his work on committees, helped to develop an interest in sailing speed records and encouraged women to take up the sport internationally.

He lived on both sides of the Atlantic from the age of one, until he entered Harvard to read geology. "I thought that business was a dirty word, and the idea of selling things for more than they cost, quite immoral. I wanted to do something that was ecologically beneficial," he recalled recently. However, he flunked his first year, and his father suggested that he would do better joining him in the family business. The carrot was two six-month stints in Paris and Berlin to develop a European market for the Moore's Modern Methods card index accountancy package that became the mainstay of the family fortune.

Moore, whose stubborn streak was one of his great strengths, spurned the offer, and with parental backing withdrawn, went back to the States to continue his studies which he funded by working as a waiter at night. The protest lasted six months before he returned to London and was welcomed with open arms into the business.

The offer to work in Europe was not repeated, but there were other compensations. Moore's father believed that people had warm beds but uncomfortable homes and that if he got them into work on time they would stay all day. The two of them would start very early each morning to set an example, but finish at lunchtime which allowed Beecher to devote the afternoons to sailing.

His first boat was a 12ft International Dinghy, then an Olympic class, which his father gave him as a reward for passing the common entrance exam.

On his return to London after Harvard, he bought the Thames Rater *Vagabond* for £35. She was already 20 years old but had never won a race. Moore took great delight into transforming her into a winner. He did so by extending her mast by nine feet and having his crew balance the extra press of sail by swinging themselves out on the end of "bell ropes" attached to the top of it.

The invention did not win universal approval, especially from his crew who sometimes fell in. But when Peter Scott and his crewman John Winter stood in for them one day, the two of them were so impressed that they imported the idea to their International 14 *Thunder and Lightning*, and promptly won the Prince of Wales Cup of 1934. The trapeze, as it became known, was then banned and did not reappear until the 1950s.

In 1934, Beecher was one of 2,500 budding amateurs to apply to sail aboard Sir Thomas Sopwith's America's Cup Challenger *Endeavour* after the aviation king's professional crew had refused to race when demands for a pay rise had been declined. Sopwith was impressed by Beecher's idea that each of the 25-strong crew should wear numbers on their backs to help to identify them.

Moore was equally impressed with *Endeavour's* speed, which he believed was faster than the American defender, but he was not impresseed by the way the British yacht was run. "It was much like a well run country house where gentlemen owners, instead of not going into the kitchen, never went forward of the mast," he recalled.

The British crew spent much of their time cleaning and preparing their boat before Sopwith arrived on board, and the sailing was treated as the relaxing part of the day. The Americans on the other hand had a second shore crew to prepare their boat and a much greater knowledge of which sails to set in any given wind condition. Thus, not surprisingly, the American yacht, *Ranger*, won the series 4-2.

Beecher so enjoyed the experience that on his return, he commissioned a silver replica of *Endeavour* and donated it to the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Burnham-on-Crouch for a series that is still raced each year to determine the champion of champions among all the dinghy racing classes sailed in Britain.

Moore became a champion helmsman and was offered a place in the British team at the 1936 Olympics but was not prepared to relinquish his American nationality to take it up. He won the Prince of Wales Cup as a crew member and was the Hornet world champion on four occasions. He also won the Queen's Cup, three times, the 12ft National Championship, twice, and the Burton Cup and Merlin Rocket Championship once.

Moore later became vice-president of the Amateur Yacht Research Society and was president of the High Speed Sailing Committee, which was founded to administer sailing records.

Moore's first wife Barbara died in 1971. He is survived by his second wife, Naona, by a stepson and two stepdaughters and by the son of his first marriage, who now runs Jack Holt, the firm he founded with the famous dinghy designer in 1945.

GWEN CATLEY

Gwen Catley, coloratura soprano, died in Hove on November 12 aged 90. She was born in London on February 9, 1906.

GILDA, the hapless daughter of the jester Rigoletto in Verdi's opera, was the role Gwen Catley's considerable fan club most wanted to hear her sing on stage. During the 1940s and 1950s she performed it several hundred times, mainly with the Carl Rosa company as it toured the length and breadth of Britain. Her wider audience, who knew her through concerts, revue and most especially her many BBC broadcasts, often had to be content with Gilda's Act II aria *Caro nome*.

Both the part and the song suited her light, pure coloratura voice perfectly. The impresario Jack Hylton heard her perform it and, immediately recognising its popular appeal, in 1943 put her in a large-scale revue, *Hi-de-Hi*, in the West End. In those days it was quite normal for singers, such as Dennis Noble and Webster Booth, to move between opera and variety. Gwen Catley joined their number but before doing so declined to appear in front of the normal backdrop and insisted that an appropriate set be built for her Gilda spot. She also had the theatre orchestra augmented to provide the right "operatic" sound. The show ran for well over a year.

Gwendolen Florence Catley was tiny, standing only a shade over 5ft tall, and had the blonde hair and blue eyes of the natural soubrette. But she knew precisely what she wanted and was not just a pretty face and a pretty voice. She had impressive musicianship and she was much helped by her husband, Allen Ford, who was a cellist with the BBC when they married in 1936. He continued to play, but soon realised that his wife was going to be the star in the family and gave her all support.

Despite her fame she appeared neither at Covent Garden nor at Glyndebourne. After her initial success as the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* with the Sadler's Wells company in 1937 she was immediately given the chance to repeat the role at the Garden. This she refused, believing, probably correctly, that at the time her voice would not be big enough to reach the upper reaches of the house.

At Glyndebourne there was a different obstacle. The Viennese soprano, Irene Eisinger, who also moved between opera and revue, had established a corner in the Mozart roles Catley might have sung — Susanna, Blonde, Despina. Jani Strasser of the music staff offered her no more than singing lessons. She was not impressed and went back to London, where the money was.

It was also the city where she was born and where she grew up. She studied at the Guildhall School of Music and carried off its gold medal.

Catley had a period with the BBC Singers, where she met her future husband, before going to Sadler's Wells to sing the Queen of the Night and Nannetta in *Falstaff*. Both parts were well chosen for her. She was fearless in the top notes of the Mozart and had the charm for Verdi's ingénue. Nannetta's short Act III aria remained a recital favourite with her.

The outbreak of war probably stopped Gwen Catley widening her repertory as much as she would have done in different circumstances. There was little opera and she found herself appearing in concert parties and entertaining the troops. It probably also accounted for the fact that she almost always sang in English. During the hostilities it was considered unpatriotic to perform in any other language, although in private she readily delivered Schubert and Strauss songs in the original. There was, though, the chance to play in a couple of films directed by John Baxter. One was *Theatre Royal*, co-scripted by Bud Flanagan and starring himself and his regular Crazy Gang partner, Chesney Allen.

Gwen Catley had to put up with quite a lot during this period, but sometimes she drew the line. During one of the many *Stage Door Canteen* shows she was lumbered with an incompetent pianist who kept on playing in the wrong key. She drew herself up to her full 5ft and publicly asked him to leave the stage, before sitting down at the piano to accompany herself.

Otherwise she was the most amenable of performers. She was quite happy in the late 1940s to have a spot in the popular radio series *Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh* with Richard Murdoch and Kenneth Horne. There was a running joke about a performance of the quartet from *Rigoletto* — what else? When it came to the great moment Horne and Murdoch managed about a note each, but there was a back-up trio of professional singers in the studio to support Catley. By 1954 she was celebrating her 600th broadcast. She was also making a quantity of 78s for EMI, specialising in the French coloratura repertory.

One of Catley's teachers at the Guildhall, Julian Kimball, had forecast that her career would last about twenty years. He was right. She left the Carl Rosa in 1957 and thereafter had a successful career in teaching, which her outgoing personality suited. She specialised in helping singers with temporary vocal problems. "Go along to Gwen, she'll sort you out," was one of the adages in the profession. At the same time she gave singing lessons to actors who were required to warble a bit in their latest part.

In common with some other sopranos she was secretive about her age and derived some pleasure from a radio programme celebrating her 85th birthday when she was well past that date. Her legacy remains. Earlier this month a CD was released on the Dutton label called *Stars of English Opera* and there is Catley singing the Queen of the Night and, even better, being a willing Zerlina to Dennis Noble's Don Giovanni in *La ci darem* — or rather, *Give me thy hand*.

Her husband survives her.

RODERICK WALTER

Roderick Walter, barrister and businessman, died on October 16 aged 85. He was born on February 25, 1911.

RODDY WALTER was the second and only surviving son of John Walter V, the last of his line to be co-chief proprietor of *The Times*. Since the paper's founding by John Walter I in 1785, it had owed its growth and pre-eminence very largely to successive generations of the Walter family and, although in 1908 Lord Northcliffe had obtained a dominant interest, on his death in 1922 his shares had been bought back by Roddy Walter's father in a minority partnership with the Hever branch of the Astor family.

However, the eventual loss of the Walter family connection with *The Times* in 1966, coupled with his father's foolish penchant for outlandish schemes — he had invested substantially in Droitwich Spa, for instance, he alone envisaging this Midlands backwater as an English Aix-les-Bains — left Roddy without a definite aim in life and, at best, a quizzical view of business affairs.

War disrupted what might otherwise have proved a fulfilling career at the Bar and it was only some years later that he was able to establish himself as a legal adviser to the engineering conglomerate of John Brown. There he was charged with drafting and amending multimillion pound contracts in the engineering, oil, chemical and construction industries. Yet the complexities and complications of modern business life and commercial practice often left him bemused; and it is as a man of charm, warmth and genuine affection that he will be chiefly remembered.

Educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Roderick Walter spent the Second World War as one of the early members of the SAS. He was one of the first, apart from the Long Range Desert Patrol, to operate behind enemy lines.

At one point he was arrested by a detachment of Americans who apparently had no knowledge of SAS operations and, suspecting him of treachery, were on the verge of dispatching him against the nearest wall. Fortunately, General Patton himself heard of Walter's predicament and intervened on his behalf in the nick of time.

When the war was over, Walter was appointed to the British Embassy in Madrid as press attaché. He had always loved Spain, ever since as an eight-year-old boy he had been sent by his father (who had also served in the Madrid Embassy) to stay with the *Times* correspondent there, but, perhaps misguidedly, he decided to leave to accept an offer to work as a legal adviser first to Karl Landeger and then to Stavros Niarchos. Neither proved a happy assignment and Walter found himself strongly out of sympathy with the labyrinthine manoeuvres with which both men sought to attain their ends.

It was with no regret that he left this phase of his life to take up a position with the John Brown company, where his overseas knowlege and his mastery of Spanish, French and German proved invaluable. He was also an adroit cartoonist and his notepad at meetings would always be doodled with witty drawings.

Roddy Walter was married three times, first to Anicie de Burgh-White, second to Xandra, now Lady de Trafford, and lastly to Deborah, formerly the wife of Patrick de Laszlo and daughter of the 1st Viscount Greenwood. She died in 1980. He is survived by the two daughters of his second marriage.

DONALD KENYON

Donald Kenyon, MBE, cricketer, died on November 12 aged 72. He was born on May 15, 1924.

FOR some years after the Second World War there was no better place for the cricket lover to be, especially the connoisseur of fine batsmanship, than on the Worcester ground with the sun shining and Don Kenyon in full cry. He was one of the most majestic stroke-makers of those days, though this is not reflected in his modest Test record.

The Kenyon cover drive left nothing to be desired, and the sound of his hooking had a booming ring to it. In a career that spanned 21 years, from 1946 to 1967, he scored 1,000 runs in a season 19 times, passing 2,000 on seven of them. In 1961 he helped to end Worcestershire's years of waiting by leading them to their first county championship title, and the 33,940 runs he made for them still constitute a record for the county.

With war breaking out when he was only 15, Kenyon was into his twenties before he got into the Worcestershire side, and he wasted no time in establishing his credentials.

In only his fourth home match he scored 152 not out against Warwickshire, and *Wisden* was soon describing his play as "dashing". Sturdily built and with a healthy confidence in his obvious natural talent, he came to be recognised, together with Dodds of Essex, Emmett of Gloucestershire and Gimblett of Somerset, as one of the most entertainingly forceful opening batsmen in the country. They all gave the bowlers a chance, but a lot of trouble too.

It was fairly certain that Kenyon would eventually play for England, and this he did in three different series. He had three Tests against India in India in the winter of 1951-52, two against Australia as Hutton's opening partner in 1953 and three against South Africa as Graveney's in 1955.

But in only one of his 15 innings for England, in the first Test match at Trent Bridge in 1955, did he do himself justice, his 87 being the highest score in a match which England won by an innings. With Australia's bowling being opened at the time by Lindwall and Miller and South Africa's by Heine and Adcock, no one played against them without being severely tested. That was Kenyon's lot; but his failure to bridge the gap from county to Test cricket may have had more to do with temperament than technique.

He made up for it, though, by what he did for Worcestershire. Having arrived when it was customary for an amateur to have charge, he became county captain as a professional in 1959, three years before the distinction between amateurs and professionals was annulled.

His style of captaincy was quietly effective; he had, in Flavell and Coldwell, one of the best opening attacks in the country, and from 1961 onwards a brilliant county batsman in Tom Graveney. They were halcyon days for Worcestershire, with the captain himself leading many a successful run chase.

From 1965 until 1972 Kenyon was an England selector, and the presidency of Worcestershire came his way in 1986, by which time he had been appointed MBE for his services to cricket. All told, he scored 37,002 first-class runs, which puts him 27th in the all-time list, and he made 74 hundreds.

He collapsed and died on the county ground at Worcester where he was about to show his own film of Worcestershire's world tour of 1964. His wife Jean and their two daughters survive him.

Latest wills

Sir Peter James Frederick **Green**, of Sutton, Ipswich, chairman of Janson Green Holdings 1986-89, chairman of Lloyds 1980-83, left estate valued at £2,509,780 net.

Alfred John Farre **Doulton**, of Salcombe, South Devon, housemaster of Dulwich College, head of statistical team and comptroller, Independent Schools Information Service 1974-80, left estate valued at £641,887 net.

Sir Richard Guy Carne **Rasch**, of Lower Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, member of HM Body Guard Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms (1968-88), left estate valued at £3,469,745 net.

Sir Alan **Lewis**, of Badingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, left estate valued at £2,788,511 net.

Hugh **Donnan**, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £996,158 net.

George Frederick **Dyson**, of Huby, Leeds, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,077,602 net.
He left £10,000 to Huby Methodist Church

Sarah Ann Deary **Coleman**, of Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £2,325,422.
She left £50,000 to Newcastle University for awards to engineering students.

Walter Hugh **Jaques**, farmer, of Gunness, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,110,532 net.

Alfred Robert **Boston**, of Longdon, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £2,834,705 net.

Doris Margaret **Gale**, of Dallington, Northampton, left estate valued at £997,738 net.
She left her residuary estate equally between the NSPCC, Church of England Children's Society, Cancer Research Campaign, Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs, RNLI and Northampton and County Association for the Blind.

Donald Moore **Pilkington**, of Bredwardine, Hereford and Worcester, left estate valued at £1,030,588 net.
He left £2,000 to the Parkinson's Disease Society.

Francis Edward West **Barnes**, of Maybury, Woking, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,048,541 net.

Hilda **High**, of Hadley Wood, Barnet, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £4,097,635 net.

Lilian Grace **Henson**, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,383,761 net.
She left her residuary estate to the Austrian Bible Mission and the Scripture Gift Mission.

Geoffrey Cranston **Chignall**, of Sarratt, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,640,954 net.

Jeremy Christopher **Dart**, of Maidencombe, Torquay, left estate valued at £410,748 net.

Arthur Francis Patrick **McCullagh**, of Wool, Wareham, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,295,399 net.
He left £20,000 to the Parish Council at Wool with further financial provision from his remaining estate to be divided equally between the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, the British Heart Foundation, Help the Aged and the Brook Hospital for Animals.

John Robert Stephen **Carson**, of London NW3, left estate valued at £2,728,766 net.
He left £25,000 to his friend Howard Weisberg, £25,000 and his Andy Warhol painting of Marilyn Monroe to his friends Brian and Madeleine Coles; £25,000 to his secretary Linda Collins and £200,000 to a charitable institution chosen by his executor Stephen Rajbenback.

Nita **King**, of London NW8 left estate valued at £2,679,080 net.

Samuel Alexander **Riding**, of Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,017,315 net.
He left £5,000 to St Michael's Church, Aughton; £1,000 to the RSPB.

Margaret Grace **Yates**, of Hornsea, East Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,290,562 net.
She left £500 each to the National Trust, Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RNLI, Hornsea Parochial Church Council, Martin House Hospice for Terminally Ill Children, Wetherby, Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign and the North Humberside Hospice Project.

Daphne **Drummond**, of Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,524,820 net.
She left £5,000 to Hale Golf Club.

Ronald Denis **Lea**, of Leicester, left estate valued at £1,289,091 net.
He left £5,000 each to the Royal Leicestershire, Rutland and Wycliffe Society for the Blind, Leicester County Mission for the Deaf, Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

ON THIS DAY

November 16, 1860

Attempts were made to incorporate Garibaldi's men into the national army, but many of them wanted only to get home

RETIREMENT OF GARIBALDI

NAPLES, NOV. 9.

Finis. The day before yesterday King Victor Emmanuel made his triumphal entry into Naples in the company of Garibaldi. Yesterday Garibaldi presented to him the result of the *plébiscite*, and resigned the Dictatorship. This morning, at dawn, Garibaldi embarked, with his immediate Staff, on board the Washington for the island of Caprera. Thus ends one of the last and most remarkable phases of the struggle for Italian union and independence, and the man who has filled the world with his name for the last six months returns to eat the potatoes which he had sown before setting out to conquer the kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Although it was his own will that it should be so, and although he parted on the most friendly terms with the King, no one who has looked on from afar at the events which raised the Italian hero to his exalted position can help being impressed by such a solution. Even if long decided upon, often discussed, and plainly foreseen the whole grandeur of such an event can only be fully felt when it occurs. No king or emperor wielded such unlimited and almost superhuman power as Garibaldi had during the last half-year. It was the power of love, gratitude, and devotion, the strongest which man can wield over his fellow-creatures. However the arts of politicians tried to destroy this, it increased every day instead of diminishing, and Garibaldi when he left was more the idol of the people than when he came. Master of half of Italy, he with one stroke of the pen surrendered this mastery to make Victor Emmanuel King of Italy. After the ceremony of the surrender of the Dictatorship, Garibaldi withdrew with the King, and the King made another attempt to keep him. He proposed that he should have full powers to reorganize his army in South Italy. Garibaldi thought he could not use these full powers while the civil authorities would be there to control him at every step; besides which he was anxious to keep his freedom of action, which alone made it possible for him to do what he has done. Giuseppe Garibaldi could do many things which a Marshal Garibaldi could not do. This morning Garibaldi embarked. Although it was before daybreak, and everything had been done to avoid demonstrations, numbers of people were there to see him depart. He was more moved than I, perhaps, ever saw him, when he took leave of his friends.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1996

NEWS

Exodus begins from Zaire camps

■ Hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees joined a gigantic flood of humanity 25 miles long in an exodus with a difference, they were going home.

Packing their belongings into sacks, rolling their mattresses into bundles, they heaved their lives onto their heads after Hutu militia who had held them were overrun............. Pages 1, 16, 17

Widow refuses to claim lottery win

■ An elderly widow says she is the missing owner of the ticket for a National Lottery prize of almost £2.1 million, the biggest unclaimed sum. The woman contacted the *Hull Daily Mail anonymously claiming that her husband had bought the ticket* before his death but she did not want the money............. Page 1

Prisoners freed

Hundreds of prisoners are to be freed early from jail following a High Court decision...... Page 1, 2

Deportation ruling

A Sikh activist who spent six years in prison awaiting deportation for alleged terrorist activities was freed after a European Court of Human Rights ruling........ Page 2

Hit-and-run death

A medical student died and her friend was injured after a hit-and-run driver struck them as they jogged in a park................ Page 3

Girls riot

More than a hundred girls from rival schools ran riot in an affluent suburb after two girls had an argument over a boyfriend... Page 5

Operations delay

Surgeons at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital have been told not to carry out routine operations unless the patient's GP is a fundholder .... Page 6

Stone goes home

The Stone of Destiny, the ancient symbol of Scotland's nationhood, is back home after 700 years' absence and an hour's delay caused by a bomb scare................ Page 7

Skyline restaurant

A race to change the skyline of London has intensified with a proposal to remodel one of the tallest City blocks with a glass spire and a cantilevered restaurant Page 10

Hong Kong chief

The cream of Hong Kong's business community was gathered for a committee which will elect Peking's chief executive........Page 15

Rap musicians jailed

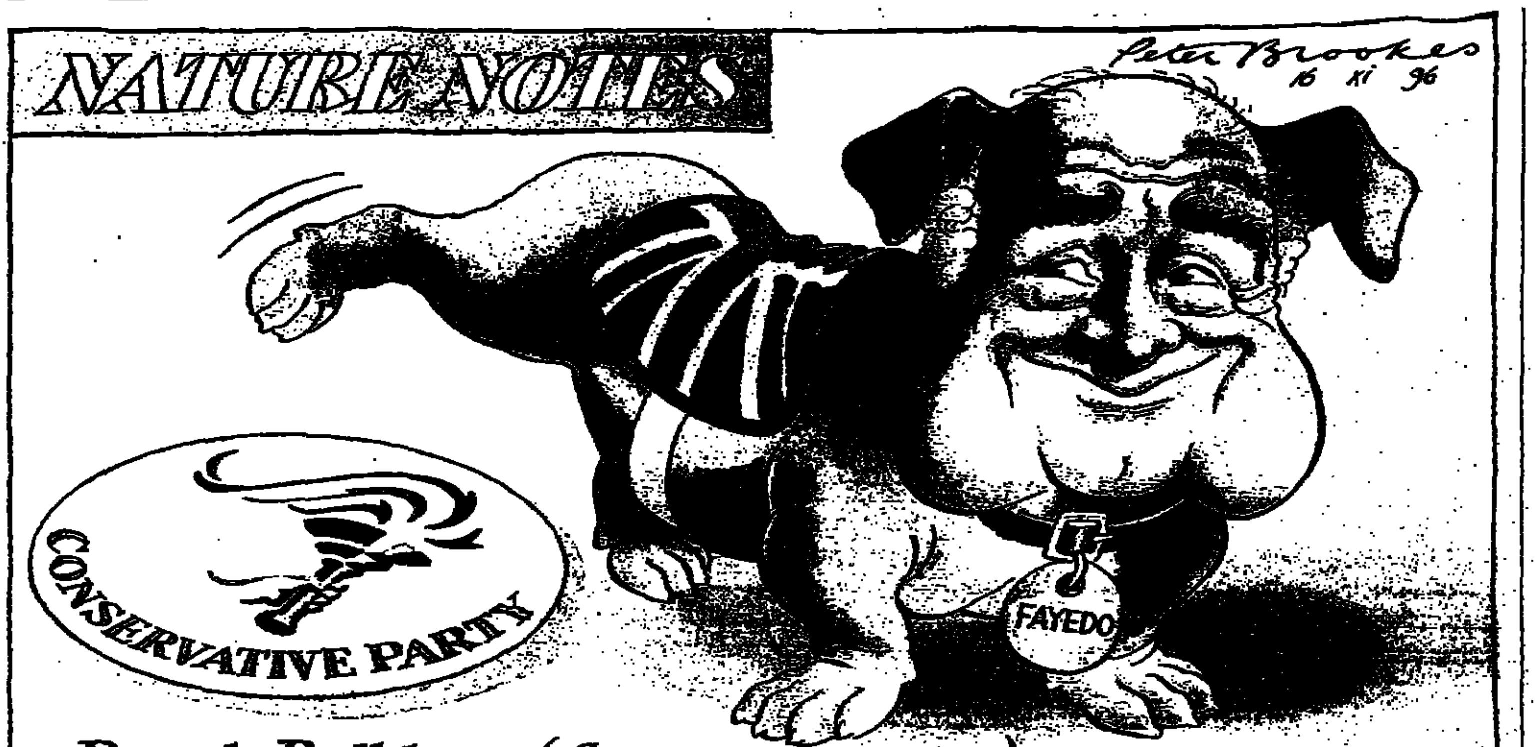
Two French rap musicians have been sentenced to prison for lyrics attacking the police.......... Page 19

Italian worry

Massimo D'Alema is said by the Italian press to want to be the first former Communist Prime Minister.......................... Page 20

Bleak outlook for angling records

■ Britain's match anglers have a new target. In a competition on the River Wye, Herefordshire, the first three anglers averaged more than 1,000 fish apiece in 300 minutes. The winner caught 1,500. Almost all were bleak, a fish so tiny that they could free fall through a jamjar without touching its sides .... Page 1



British Bulldog (*Giveus apassportus*)

Of mixed pedigree, it is pugnacious and tenacious. Available for cash from Harrods pet department, no questions asked.

OPINION

Cassandra's warning: Remember Ken Livingstone and the GLC. A moderate Labour leader was ousted in a left-wing putsch after winning an election: the same might await Mr Blair ....Page 23

Dawn of hope: Rwanda has had precious little help with this task of national reconciliation. *It is time to invest in a* more stable Rwanda Page 23

LETTERS

48-hour week; Nazi atrocities; Oxford business school; two minutes' silence; Zaire; listed buildings.................. Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The West appears to have lost what was meant to be a test of its moral rapid deployment capability. The logic of power on the ground has, for once, stolen a march......................... Page 22

Clare Short: Women want Blair, but not for his hair: in the battle to close the gender gap. *Labour will win by offering a vision* .... Page 22

OBITUARIES

Beecher Moore, sailing inventor; **Gwen Catley**, coloratura soprano; **Donald Kenyon**, cricketer........... Page 25

BUSINESS

Railtrack sought to reassure its 370,000 shareholders that their investment was not under threat from a Labour government .... Page 27

Rover jobs: BMW is to build a *£400 million* engine plant in the West Midlands, which it says will safeguard up to 6,500 jobs in the car industry .... Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 32.0 points to close at 3958.1. Sterling's index rose from 91.9 to 92.0 after a rise from $1.6635 to $1.6661 and from DM2.5102 to DM2.5130 .... Page 30

[illegible]

Football: Manchester United begin 'a massive week' with the visit of Arsenal ...Page 52

FA Cup: The special appeal of the first round is illustrated by Glyn Chamberlain, a delivery driver, who plays for Newcastle Town against Notts County .... Page 51

Rugby union: The quarter-finals of the Heineken Cup will show that the future at club level should be in European competition......Page 48

[illegible]

Could natural gas be the future fuel for cars?

[illegible]

What's up, doc: Have the boundaries between entertainment and human suffering ever been as blurred as they are today? Page 21

Moral maze: The RSC *keeps faith with the spirit* of the original medieval morality play in its new staging of *Everyman* in Stratford .... Page 21

Highly vocal: At the London Jazz Festival Carmen Lundy overcame a dismal sound mix to confirm her place in the premier league with a fine trio at her heels .... Page 21

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Maxwell house: With Pandora and Kevin...... Page 8

Hillsborough: Playwright asked to set the record straight .... Page 18

Weekend

Challenger: Has the tank had its day? ......Pages 1, 2

Country life: Saving the Lake District ....Page 11

Home life: Wild origins of pet dogs ....Pages 14-15

10 15

Win a trip to Disneyland for 25 friends ....Page 3

Meet Uma Thurman, of *Beautiful Girls*......Page 6

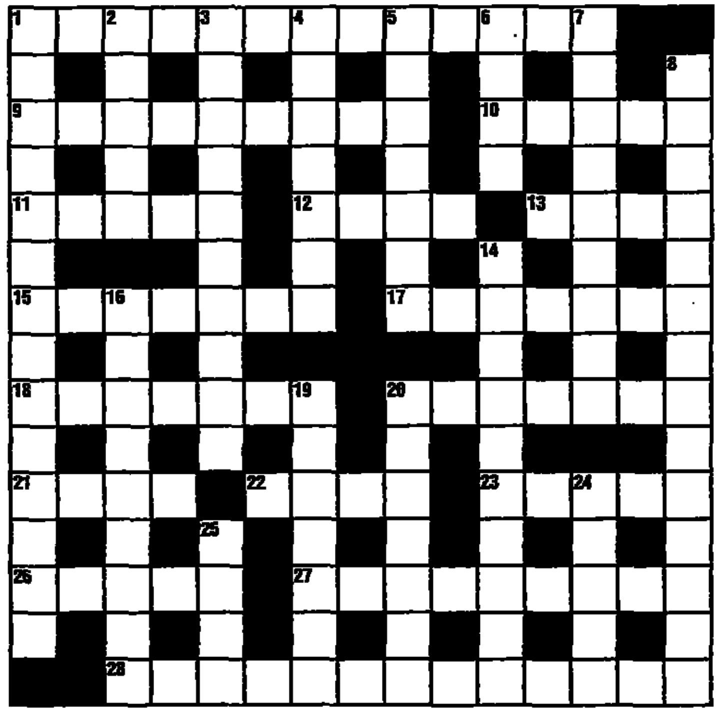
Going out: ..... Pages 13-22
TV and radio: Pages 23-50
Food:..................Pages 3-6
Books: .... Pages 7-12
Audio: Book offer. Page 51

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,327

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Respect and endless pride so involved in this (6,2,5).
9 Nothing sinister about this skill? (9).
10 Brave types proceed legally in hearing (5).
11 Daughter in real trouble needed psychiatrist (5).
12 Enthusiastic about nothing on modest unsuitable contract (4).
13 Conclusions reached by board move team to protest (4).
15 Travelling in vehicle seen from house (2,5).
17 Got over being released (7).
18 Needing resort, I arrive in seaside area (7).
20 Reference book identifying international medical group's doctor (4,3).
21 Consent to artist showing ladies' fingers (4).
22 Contents of ad about hearing aids (4).
23 Led up to reform, like Henry IV? (5).
26 Why rhymes are needed for this *literary genre* (3-2).
27 Reduce English dish male is tucking into (9).
28 Confidence of all the people preserving organization (8,5).

DOWN

1 Busy in Oxford, disorganized *reader moves on around university* (9,5).
2 In confusion, unknown left small screen part (5).
3 Craft useful to party organizers (10).
4 Does victim of this crime forgive the errant perpetrator? (7).
5 Secret agent finally put in picture following announcement (7).
6 Growth of bank career (4).
7 Recorded conflict over, as result of successful shooting from both sides (5,4).
8 Religious campaign in shoe works (6,8).
14 Call to start fighting slightly mistimed (7,3).
16 Hard cash as part of royalty (9).
19 Old style firm *supporting new* trade (3,4).
20 One child inhabiting Washington or Kansas City (7).
24 Foreign soldier fuelling uprising? (5).
25 Talent needed to make a presentation (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,321

N	O	M	A	D		D	E	Q	U	I	N	C	E	Y
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Solution to Puzzle No 20,326

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O		T		E		W		R		A		U		R
M	A	H	A	R	A	N	E	E		L	U	S	T	Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *L K Maltby, Ashford, Middlesex; Rev'd E N Staines, Defford, Worcestershire; Dr R Warren, London; K Egerton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; J M Scott, Leith, Edinburgh.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.21 am | Sun sets: 4.10 pm
Moon sets 9.48 pm | Moon rises 11.57 am

First quarter November 18

London 4.10 pm to 7.22 am
Bristol 4 20 pm to 7.32 am
Edinburgh 4 03 pm to 7 54 am
Manchester 4.10 pm to 7 39 am
Penzance 4 36 pm to 7.39 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.22 am | Sun sets: 4.08 pm
Moon sets 11.03 pm | Moon rises 12.33 pm

First quarter tomorrow

London 4 08 pm to 7.24 am
Bristol 4.18 pm to 7 34 am
Edinburgh 4 01 pm to 7.56 am
Manchester 4 09 pm to 7 41 am
Penzance 4.35 pm to 7 41 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:52	6.6	5.23	6.7
Aberdeen	4:45	4.0	4:53	4.0
Avonmouth	10:23	12.4	10:49	12.0
Belfast	2:00	3.4	2:24	3.5
Cardiff	10:09	11.1	10:34	10.7
Devonport	8.59	5.3	9:27	5.0
Dover	1:47	6.5	2:14	6.3
Dublin (N Wall)	2:45	3.8	3:04	4.0
Falmouth	8:04	4.9	8:36	4.6
Greenock	3:30	3.4	3:46	3.6
Harwich	2:34	3.8	3:05	3.9
Holyhead	1.19	5.2	1:42	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	9.35	7.0	9:45	7.0
Ilfracombe	9:08	8.7	9:34	8.3
King's Lynn	9:27	6.6	9:51	6.6
Leith	5:53	5.4	6.12	5.2
Liverpool	2:15	8.8	2.40	8.9
Lowestoft	0:11	2.5	12:53	2.4
Margate	2:43	4.8	3:21	4.5
Milford Haven	9:28	6.6	9:55	6.2
Newquay	8:17	6.5	8:48	6.2
Oban	8:48	3.7	9:06	3.3
Penzance	7:45	5.3	8.11	4.9
Portland	9:39	2.0	10:08	1.7
Portsmouth	2:20	4.6	2:37	4.4
Shoreham	2:04	6.0	2:27	5.8
Southampton	1:43	4.5	2:04	4.4
Swansea	9:36	8.8	10:01	8.4
Tees	7:05	5.0	7:16	5.0
Walton-on-Naze	2:33	4.0	3:06	4.0

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aboyne, Grampian, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Walnall Chaworth, Nottinghamshire, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Buxton, Derbyshire, 0.10in; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 8.4hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start mainly dry but there may be some light rain in the north and west. This will spread southeast, followed by more persistent rain that should reach northern areas later. Temperatures will be about average.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some rain at first but this will move away to the south-east as brighter weather extends across all parts. Showers are likely, chiefly in the north-west. Temperatures above average at first but becoming colder.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia:** sunny spells developing; perhaps patchy rain later. Wind light northeasterly, becoming moderate southwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, N E England:** rather cloudy, patchy light rain or drizzle at times. Wind southwesterly, mainly moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Channel Isles:** mainly dry, sunny spells. Wind light northeasterly, becoming variable. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** patchy rain at first, becoming persistent but clearing later. Wind strong southwesterly, turning northwesterly, moderating. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Moray Firth, N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain clearing to leave sunny spells and showers, some heavy and wintry on hills. Wind strong southwesterly, turning northwesterly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain clearing the south-east, then brighter and colder. Wintry showers in north-west.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

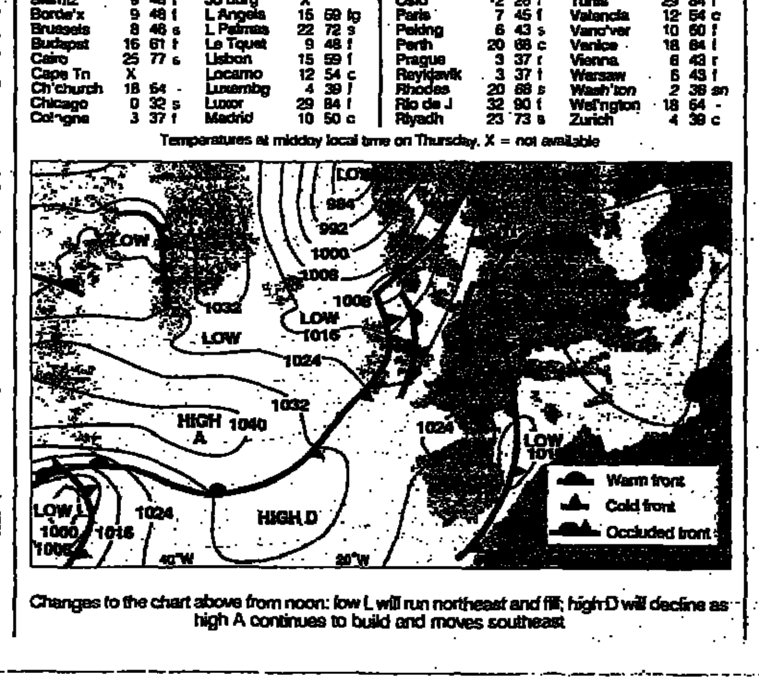
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.3	0.08	12	54	r	Leuchars	0.4	0.02	12	54	c
Anglesey	X					Littlehmptn	7.1	-	9	48	s
Aspatria	-	-	11	52	fg	London	6.7	-	11	52	s
Aviemore	0.4	0.02	11	52	r	Lowestoft	5.5	-	9	48	s
Belfast	0.1	0.01	11	52	fg	Manchester	X				
Birmingham	-	0.07	7	45	du	Margate	7.5	-	9	48	s
Bognor R	8.4	-	8	46	s	Minehead	0.1	0.02	9	48	c
Bournem'th	X					Morecambe	-	0.02	9	48	d
Bristol	X					Newcastle	-	0.01	11	52	d
Buxton	-	0.10	9	48	du	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	0.1	0.01	8	46	c	Norwich	7.2	-	10	50	s
Clacton	6.1	-	8	46	s	Oxford	4.0	-	10	50	s
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	0.04	11	52	d	Poole	6.3	-	10	50	s
Cromer	7.3	-	9	48	s	Prestatyn	X	0.08	10	50	d
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	-	0.07	7	45	c
Eastbourne	7.4	-	9	48	s	Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	0.3	0.01	13	55	b	Salcombe	X				
Eskdalemuir	0.2	0.01	10	50	fg	Sandown	8.1	-	8	46	s
Exmouth	2.8	0.01	10	50	s	Saunton Snd	-	-	9	48	du
Falmouth	X					Scarboro'	-	-	8	46	du
Fishguard	-	0.03	10	50	d	Shanklin	7.0	0.01	9	48	s
Folkestone	8.1	-	8	46	s	Shrewsbury	-	0.02	9	48	fg
Glasgow	0.1	0.02	12	54	c	Skegness	7.7	-	9	48	s
Guernsey	8.7	-	12	54	s	Southend	6.8	-	9	48	s
Hastings	7.9	-	8	46	s	Southport	-	0.07	11	52	d
Hayling I.	8.1	-	9	48	s	Southsea	8.1	-	9	48	s
Herne Bay	X					Stornoway	1.3	0.04	10	50	sh
Hove	5.8	-	9	48	s	Swanage	7.6	-	10	50	s
Hunstanton	6.5	-	10	50	s	Teignmouth	3.1	0.01	10	50	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	0.7	0.01	11	52	c
Isle of Man	0.1	0.01	12	54	d	Tiree	2.4	0.09	11	52	r
Jersey	7.6	0.01	9	48	s	Torquay	2.8	-	11	52	s
Kinloss	-	0.02	12	54	r	Tynemouth	-	-	11	52	c
Leeds	-	0.01	11	52	c	Ventnor	8.2	-	10	50	s
Lerwick	X					West-s-mare	X				

ABROAD

Ajaccio	18	64	f	Corfu	18	64	f	Majorca	17	63	f	Rome	21	70	s
Akrotiri	25	77	s	C'phagn	2	36	s	Malaga	16	61	c	S Fr'sco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	23	73	f	Dublin	10	50	c	Malta	25	77	s	S Paulo	22	72	c
Algiers	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	17	63	f	Melb'rne	16	61	f	Salzburg	0	32	sn
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	18	64	f	Mexico C	16	61	s	Santiago	17	63	s
Athens	19	66	s	Florence	21	70	f	Miami	23	73	r	Seoul	7	45	s
B Aires	24	75	f	Frankfurt	5	41	c	Milan	14	57	c	Sing'por	29	84	t
Bahrain	25	77	s	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	-3	27	s	St'kholm	-4	25	s
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	7	45	c	Moscow	5	41	c	Strasb'rg	6	43	f
Barbados	27	81	f	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Munich	1	34	sn	Sydney	34	93	f
Barcelona	14	57	f	Helsinki	-1	30	c	N Delhi	X			Tangier	16	61	f
Beirut	24	75	s	Hong K	24	75	s	N York	3	37	f	Tel Aviv	25	77	s
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbrck	0	32	sn	Nairobi	24	75	c	Tenerife	21	70	f
Berlin	4	39	c	Istanbul	13	55	s	Naples	23	73	s	Tokyo	12	54	c
Bermuda	22	72	s	Jeddah	28	82	f	Nice	16	61	s	Toronto	0	32	f
Biarritz	9	48	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	-2	28	f	Tunis	29	84	f
Borde'x	9	48	f	L Angels	15	59	fg	Paris	7	45	f	Valencia	12	54	c
Brussels	8	46	s	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	6	43	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	f
Budapst	16	61	f	Le Tquet	9	48	f	Perth	20	68	c	Venice	18	64	f
Cairo	25	77	s	Lisbon	15	59	f	Prague	3	37	r	Vienna	6	43	r
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	12	54	c	Reykjavik	3	37	f	Warsaw	6	43	f
Ch'church	18	64	-	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rhodes	20	68	s	Wash'ton	2	36	sn
Chicago	0	32	s	Luxor	29	84	f	Rio de J	32	90	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	-
Cologne	3	37	f	Madrid	10	50	c	Riyadh	23	73	s	Zurich	4	39	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low L will run northeast and fill; high D will decline as high A continues to build and moves southeast.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1996

Walter Hasselkus, chief executive of Rover, left, with Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, after BMW's announcement yesterday

BMW protects 6,500 jobs with £400m Rover plant

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BMW is to build a £400 million Rover engine plant in the West Midlands, which it says will safeguard up to 6,500 jobs in the car industry, after last-minute cash incentives from the Government.

The deal, which will be the first to produce BMW engines outside Germany, has hung in the balance for several months while the German company and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, haggled over the sweeteners available. Mr Lang said yesterday that the offer of "a little more money" had beaten opposition from Austria, which had offered a £60 million package of assistance. Britain's offer is thought to have topped £50 million.

Agreement was struck last night after what Mr Lang termed "hard-headed" discussions. No new jobs are expected to come out of the new plant.

The Government is refusing to detail the full extent of assistance at present, although £22.5 million has been given by the regional selective assistance scheme and £20 million by English Partnerships, the development agency. Further cash aid will come on top of that for training.

Mr Lang said that the complete package was below that offered by Austria. In a clear swipe at the 48-hour European working time directive, he said that the choice of Britain was an endorsement of its flexible workforce and "light burdens on business". However, Rover works a 37-hour week and BMW is unlikely to have been swayed by Britain's support for high working-time flexibility. What will have driven its decision is the lower wage bill in Britain, general lower costs than Austria and financial inducements offered by the Government.

Rover says that 1,500 jobs are directly protected by the new plant. These are jobs at Rover's Longbridge engine plant. Beyond that, 5,000 are forecast to be secured in the automotive supply industry from the new plant. Longbridge is to shift concentration from engine production to vehicle assembly, while Rover denies any intention to scale down the plant.

The new engine manufacturer will be at Hams Hall in north Warwickshire. Construction will start soon on the greenfield site, with production expected to begin at the end of the century. Its full capacity will be 500,000 engines a year. Longbridge currently makes 290,000 engines annually.

Walter Hasselkus, Rover chief executive, said the company would balance production between its plants and was unable to offer the prospect of any new jobs from the deal. But industry watchers view the development as a signal of BMW's commitment to Rover. Dr Hasselkus, said the new plant reinforced BMW's European strategy. He said that the company could have gained a much higher grant outside the European Union.

The Government believes the cash inducements offered to BMW are unlikely to be queried by Brussels, although its award comes amid a trend of escalating payments by governments to attract inward investment.

Four for trial over $1m money "wash"

By Robert Miller
Banking Correspondent

FOUR MEN were charged yesterday with money-laundering offences that involved using London to "wash" almost $1 million from the proceeds of a US bank fraud before transferring the "clean" funds to Austria.

The City of London Police's Financial Investigation Unit (FIU), established in May to counter money-laundering in the Square Mile, said that the charges were a first for the new unit.

It is understood that the investigation, headed by Detective Chief Inspector Tony Thomas, was initiated when a UK bank tipped off the authorities. Under special disclosure rules, banks, building societies and investment houses have a duty to report to the authorities any suspicious transactions.

The four are Leslie Goodwin, 47 and unemployed, from Lostwithiel, Cornwall; Jason Radak, 48, from Richmond upon Thames, Surrey; John Butler-Rees, 47, an accountant from Knightsbridge, central London; and Anthony Adjei, 45, a financial adviser from north London.

The charges relate to the movement of nearly $500,000 into a London account at the Greenwich branch of Midland Bank in the name of JBR Asset Management, allegedly under the control of Mr Butler-Rees. A further $300,000 was moved from London into an account at the Bank of Austria in Vienna in the name of Refina Kredit Gas. A further charge concerns a conspiracy to defraud NatWest Bank contrary to common law.

The Austrian police and the FBI continue to liaise with the City of London Police in the ongoing investigation.

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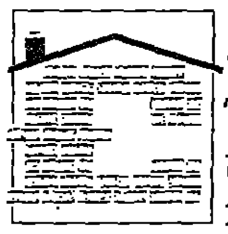

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The risks of the new equity release schemes

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3958.2	(+32.1)
Yield	3.99%	
FTSE All share	1948.15	(+12.60)
Nikkei	20929.73	(-101.31)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6364.43	(+51.43)*
S&P Composite	740.94	(+5.06)*

[illegible]

Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long Bond	$100\frac{13}{16}$*	($101\frac{1}{32}$)
Yield	6.44%*	(6.42%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	$6\frac{11}{32}$%	($6\frac{11}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$110\frac{7}{16}$	($109\frac{27}{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6650*	(1.6645)
London:		
$	1.6685	(1.6634)
DM	2.5134	(2.5106)
FFr	8.4910	(8.4843)
SFr	2.1306	(2.1196)
Yen	185.14	(184.74)
£ Index	92.0	(91.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5088*	(1.5090)
FFr	5.0970*	(5.1010)
SFr	1.2790*	(1.2757)
Yen	111.27*	(111.42)
$ Index	96.2	(96.2)

Tokyo close Yen 111.43

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$23.00	($23.60)

GOLD

London close	$379.75	($382.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Regional boost

Orders increased in eight of the 11 CBI regions in the past four months, according to the latest regional trends survey. Northern Ireland and Wales led Britain in winning new orders.

Page 28

German warning on currency goal

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

GERMANY still has not done enough to hit the Maastricht treaty's deficit limit and so qualify for the single European currency, the country's Council of Economic Advisers said.

The council's "five wise men" forecast that the total public sector deficit would be DM122.5 billion, or 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product, in 1997, the test year. The Maastricht limit is 3 per cent.

The council welcomed this week's agreement of a further DM3 billion in spending cuts, but one of its members said that Germany would have to find further cuts of up to DM12 billion.

Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, yesterday rejected the council's warnings, saying that Germany would meet the 3 per cent limit "with an ample margin of safety". But Otmar Issing, the Bundesbank's chief economist, said that the wise men's report was a warning that Germany would have to work hard to achieve the deficit target. He said it would be a close call.

The council said it could not rule out a delay to the start of monetary union, currently scheduled for January 1, 1999. However, it added that any delay would not mean the collapse of the whole project.

□ American industrial output dropped 0.5 per cent in October, partly because of strikes in car manufacturing plants in Canada and the US during the month. This was the first fall in industrial production for seven months.

Railtrack soothes investor qualms

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

RAILTRACK sought to reassure its 370,000 private shareholders yesterday that their investment is not under threat from an incoming Labour government.

John Edmonds, chief executive, said the board's contacts with Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, suggested they shared a common vision of the future. "Our policy objective to carry more passengers and freight exactly corresponds with theirs," Mr Edmonds said. "We don't want to revisit the stale old arguments about privatisation, we want people to judge us on what we have achieved in the private sector."

Labour's formal position is that it will take a controlling stake in Railtrack but few in the City or the rail industry believe this commitment will remain a priority. As Railtrack announced its first interim results as a private company yesterday, the partly-paid shares rose 37½p, to a high of 322½p, against an issue price in May of 200p, or 190p for small investors.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, rose to £173 million from £98 million. The underlying, like-for-like increase was a 23 per cent rise to £173 million.

Profits from property sales were £23 million, and there was a £4 million gain from payments under the railway performance regime. Turnover rose to £1.2 billion (£1.14 billion). The interim payout is 7.3p (6.8p) a share.

Tempus, page 30

Power bids to fan 'fat cats' row

By Oliver August

Askew: big payoff

TWO regional electricity companies currently in takeover negotiations look set to become embroiled in the latest row over multi-million payoffs for boardroom "fat cats".

At East Midlands Electricity, which agreed an offer by Dominion Resources of America this week, directors could net up to half a million pounds each if they leave the board. Norman Askew, chief executive, is earning more than £200,000 a year on a two-year rolling contract. East Midlands' directors also stand to gain from their share options, which will grow 25 per cent in value if the takeover is not held up by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

At Northern Electric, currently the subject of a hostile bid by America's CE Electric, compensation payments could be even higher. The likely dismissal of the board in the case of a successful hostile offer would trigger payoffs well in excess of one million pounds. David Morris, the chairman, can expect a £600,000 send-off, plus share options worth £800,000.

Labour, proposing a windfall tax on utilities, has linked "fat cat" payoffs to growing public frustration with the power companies. John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, said: "People are absolutely exasperated. Those at the top of the utilities make large benefits, while the customers are an afterthought."

But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said the controversy over payments would have no bearing on his decision over the two pending bids. He said: "Mergers and takeovers are separately considered. Adjustments to boards are matters for the boards."

Executive Voice, page 28

GUINNESS FLIGHT

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Fidelity	NO	[illegible]	[illegible]	NO	[illegible]	[illegible]
M&G	NO	[illegible]	NIL	YES	[illegible]	[illegible]
Perpetual	NO	[illegible]	3.25%	NO	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barclays	NO	[illegible]	3.25%	NO	[illegible]	[illegible]

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Windfall tax inconsistent with stakeholder society

EXECUTIVE VOICE

Malcolm Chatwin

Someone once said: "I believe we should all pay our tax bill *with a smile. I tried — but* they wanted cash!" I suspect that Labour's planned windfall tax will cost all utilities a great deal more than a smile. What is not clear, however, is how much it will cost or whom it will affect.

Tony Blair and the Labour Party have articulated their vision of a "stakeholder society", where British industry rewards shareholders, employees and customers. We at Yorkshire Electricity have repeatedly and publicly supported this concept, and believe that we have a collective responsibility towards a fourth category of stakeholder — the inhabitants of our region.

However, as directors of a publicly quoted company, our primary *duty is to our shareholders* — and in Yorkshire Electricity's case more than 100,000 of our shareholders are customers, while the great *majority of our employees (at all* levels) are also shareholders. For this reason, we are obliged to question the ethics and mechanics of a tax that would impact adversely on so many of our stakeholders.

Next Thursday's House of Commons debate on the windfall tax will throw the spotlight, once again, on to the *non-specific nature* of Labour's plans. The Government, no doubt, will wish to appeal to the eight million individual shareholders of the companies that Labour has so far targeted.

Perhaps we should rename it the "stakeholder tax", or the "nest-egg tax", or *even* the "*pensioner's* tax" — a tax that will attack their investments inevitably harms *them*.

The truth is that since privatisation all of the regional electricity companies (Recs) have improved *efficiency and customer service* standards; significantly reduced costs in real terms; rewarded shareholders; and improved employee pay and working conditions.

At Yorkshire Electricity, we now offer the UK's lowest domestic prices; have one of the best efficiency records in the sector; have dramatically reduced disconnections and complaints; and were the first Rec to introduce freephone customer help lines. This is a clear illustration of how we are rewarding our stakeholders.

Yet, in the absence of clarification, we are being forced to operate in a climate of uncertainty. This impacts upon our planning, *budgeting and recruitment — and* adversely upon our share price. This is not an environment conducive to the effective running of one of Yorkshire's largest companies.

A by-product of a lower share *price is to make Yorkshire* Electricity and the remaining independent Recs more vulnerable to takeover, as we are currently seeing. Would a new owner continue to *support all* of our stakeholders and the region in the way that we have?

In 1977, Joe Haines, of the *Daily Mirror*, said: "It's no use saying the Labour Government works, if one and a half million people don't."

This time around Labour promises that it will devote the proceeds of its windfall tax to training and creating jobs for 250,000 people nationally. In practice, this stakeholder tax would almost inevitably result in reduced efficiency through reduced investment in our core distribution and generation businesses.

This will result in a significant slowdown in job creation throughout the industry; and, ultimately, *depending upon the level of the tax*, in job losses — which is entirely contrary to what Labour is seeking to achieve in the first place.

In the long term this could mean higher prices and will detract from Yorkshire Electricity's present position *as the lowest cost supplier to* our domestic customers.

Another by-product of this stakeholder tax is *that foreign investors* will think twice before doing business in the UK, on the basis that a socialist government will levy what amounts to a retrospective tax on successfully managed businesses. Rumour has it that the Clinton Administration is already lobbying against what it sees as a discriminatory tax on US companies.

It is also important to remember that, since privatisation, Yorkshire Electricity has paid, on average, £90 million per year to the Government, compared with an average of £41 million pre-privatisation. Should the Labour party decide to proceed, in spite of the growing criticism of its stakeholder tax, then what is needed — before a constructive dialogue can begin — is for Labour to define what they categorise as a utility. Will this stakeholder *tax be confined* to the water and electricity sectors, or will it be applied to other privatised industries?

In summary, the retrospective clawback of efficiency gains that have already benefited *all of our* stakeholders, and have contributed significant amounts of tax, is ill-conceived, inequitable and inconsistent with the stakeholder society that we serve.

☐ *Malcolm Chatwin is group chief executive of Yorkshire Electricity*

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	18.65	17.15
Belgium Fr	54.68	50.38
Canada $	2.332	2.172
Cyprus Cyp£	0.796	0.741
Denmark Kr	10.20	9.40
Finland Mkk	*8.13*	*7.48*
France Fr	8.88	8.23
Germany Dm	2.66	2.45
Greece Dr	411	386
Hong Kong $	*13.50*	*12.50*
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.68	5.03
Italy Lira	2638	2483
Japan Yen	199.60	183.60
Malta	0.631	0.576
Netherlds Gld	2.965	2.735
New Zealand $	2.49	2.27
Norway Kr	11.07	10.27
Portugal Esc	264.50	246.00
S Africa Rd	8.35	7.55
Spain Pta	217.50	204.50
Sweden Kr	11.65	10.85
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.07
Turkey Lira	169000	161000
USA $	1.763	1.633

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Thanks to Peter Wood of Direct Line, much of the traditional financial services industry is now under siege from direct sellers. Other industries, including food, computers, and records, are also succumbing to the assault . . ."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Ulster and Wales lead orders race

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

NORTHERN Ireland and Wales are leading the country in winning new manufacturing orders, according to the Confederation of British Industry's latest regional trends survey.

Orders increased in eight of the 11 UK regions *in the past* four months, with Northern Ireland, Wales, East Anglia *and Scotland seeing the greatest* growth. Orders fell in the South West, Yorkshire and Humberside and the East Midlands but the declines were modest.

The survey, produced with Business Strategies, the regional economics consultancy, said that export demand over the past four months was *strongest in Northern Ireland*, followed by the South West. In the UK as a whole, growth in domestic orders outstripped that of export orders.

Output rose in eight regions, with firms in Northern Ireland, Wales and the South East reporting the fastest rate of growth. Output fell in only three regions — Yorkshire and *Humberside, the North and* East Anglia.

Looking ahead, all 11 regions expect orders to increase over the next four months although the North is only looking for a slight increase. Most optimistic are firms in Wales and East Anglia.

Manufacturers in all regions except the North expect output to rise over the coming four months. Yorkshire and Humberside and East Anglia *are most optimistic*.

The news on the prices front is relatively good. Unit costs fell over the past four months in seven regions and seven regions expect unit costs to decline over the next four months. Manufacturers' domestic prices fell in eight regions over the latest period and are expected to fall in five *regions over the next four* months.

Of the six areas predicting price rises in the coming months, only firms in the East Midlands, the North West and Yorkshire and Humberside expected rises to be any more than trivial.

Business confidence rose in eight out of 11 regions over the *past four months, with manufacturers* in East Anglia and Scotland the most optimistic.

Graham Lockyer is leading Triplex Lloyd's bid

Colt float chases £68m

By Eric Reguly

COLT, the American telecoms company that competes with BT and Mercury for government and large business customers, said that it expects to raise as much as £68 million in its flotation and will use the funds to expand its network in London and Frankfurt.

The flotation will value Colt, or City of London Telecommunications, at between £240 million and £272 million, with an indicated price range of 225p-255p a share. Morgan Stanley and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson will set the price next month and the shares will trade on the London Stock Exchange and America's Nasdaq market.

Colt will also raise £75 million in bank loans and $150 million in high-yield debt.

Triplex bid lifts William Cook shares

By Keith Rodgers

SHARES in William Cook, the steel castings group, soared yesterday after Triplex Lloyd, *the rival engineering* company, launched a £57.7 million hostile takeover bid.

The cash-and-shares offer values William Cook shares at 309p, against Thursday's closing price of 240½p. The shares closed yesterday at 325p.

Graham Lockyer, Triplex Lloyd chief executive, said *that William Cook shareholders* were "suffering from their management's loss of ambi*tion and its failure to pursue* new growth opportunities successfully".

William Cook swiftly rejected the bid. Andrew Cook, chairman, said: "We're being bid for by someone who's trying to steal shares from the *shareholders*. I'm determined that shareholders will not be swindled."

The offer is of seven new Triplex Lloyd shares and £13.50 in cash for every nine Cook shares. There is an alternative cash offer of 295p a share.

Triplex Lloyd said that the acquisition would generate £1.5 million *of extra profit a* year, and expects it to enhance earnings in the first full year, *excluding one-off costs*.

Tempus, page 30

Executive post for James Murdoch

THE NEWS CORPORATION, parent company of *The Times*, announced yesterday the appointment of James *Murdoch as Vice-President, Music and New Media*. He will be responsible for iGuide, News Corporation's soon-to-be relaunched online company.

In this capacity he will be involved with setting iGuide's future online strategy, and integrating this with News Corporation's existing business and its other online ventures. His music-related duties will specifically include the start-up company, Rawkus Entertainment, and News Corporation's relationship with Mushroom Records, among other ventures. He will report to Greg Clark, president of the News Technology Group.

Inspirations warning

INSPIRATIONS, the UK's fourth largest tour operator, has issued a warning to shareholders that it expects to incur a loss this year and may not pay a final dividend. It was the second profit warning in as many months. In October, the group had said that it would break even at the year-end. Analysts had been forecasting profits of around £7.7 million. The company blamed a drop in bookings in September, which left it with *surplus capacity, and maintenance* problems at Caledonian Airways, its subsidiary, which gave rise to additional costs of £14 million. At one stage yesterday, the company's shares fell 6p, to 73½p, recording a *new low for the year*.

Avonmore raises funds

AVONMORE, the food group based in the Irish Republic, is raising $100 million through an issue of preferred securities to reduce debt and fund expansion. The 7.99 per cent cumulative *preferred securities were sold on a private placement basis to* institutional investors. Avonmore's debts were about Ir£70 million at the end of 1995. The company wants to expand in *the dairy and pigmeat sectors in the UK, the US dairy sector*, and the food-ingredient sectors in Europe and America.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN McKEOWN

When a trip to the local is all part of the job

Martin Waller says the man in charge of Allied Domecq's pubs values the old-fashioned touch

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

A VISIT to his Belfast birthplace a while ago by John McKeown saw a neighbour asking him how things were in the hotels business. His parents, he discovered, both teetotal Presbyterians, had been unwilling to admit to the neighbourhood that their only child was in the licensed trade. Hotels, somehow, seemed more respectable.

As Mr McKeown tells the tale, he lights up the third cigarette of the hour. A half-full pint glass is in front of him, never to be finished: in preference, a bottle of Chablis is being gently uncorked to go with a sandwich lunch. The conversation will later drift to the wiles he uses in the McKeown household to slide off and indulge in his third vice, the horses.

> ‘I can put in hours and hours in a social environment’

So those Presbyterian virtues never really caught on, which is probably as well for a man who makes his living visiting pubs. Indeed, he revels in it. "I can put in hours and hours in a social environment," he says. "I couldn't put in those hours behind a desk."

Mr McKeown is managing director of Allied Domecq Inns, the biggest collection of boozers in the country. This is not to denigrate them, because this is exactly what the estate is, a collection of 3,800 hostelries where the emphasis is firmly on old-fashioned values of drinking, talking, shooting some pool and occasionally making a fool of yourself in front of the karaoke machine.

Not a new-wave wine bar among them, no child-friendly theme restaurants, and all by corporate design.

A year ago Allied Domecq, the drinks group that also owns Dunkin' Donuts, Baskin-Robbins ice-cream and a raft of spirits brands such as Beefeater gin and Teacher's whisky, decided to divide its pub estate into two. The leisure side got, for example, Big Steak Pubs and Wacky Warehouses, the latter theme pubs where parents are encouraged to take the children along and park them in a padded cage while the civilised drinking takes place outside. For both these brands, money is needed to convert or expand from existing, non-specialised pubs. That money comes, in part, from Mr McKeown's pubs.

"I run more pubs than anybody else in the country," he says proudly, "and since the restructuring they are all locals."

Allied's estate had previously been spread across various regional brands such as Ansells and Tetley's. The idea was to create chains of similar pubs and allow their respective managements to concentrate on each specialised chain. "Take a £25,000 a week turnover Wacky Warehouse," he says. "The type of person you need to run them and the type of skills he or she has are totally different from a £7,000 to £8,000 a week local.

"What we have to do is to make sure that we keep the locals from declining and indeed see if we can grow them without much capital. That will throw off cash for renovation in areas where the market is growing, such as eating out.

"Where we will grow is taking trade from undifferentiated locals that don't offer as much as we do."

So Mr McKeown must manage the less go-go portion of the estate to produce cash that can be used to expand the other half, such as those Wacky Warehouses. His pubs must be run without spending too much to squeeze out the maximum revenue from existing clientele; these are predominantly from the C2 and D social classes. It is not a prospect he seems to find dispiriting.

"My locals are what obsess me completely. Whether it's a discothèque, a karaoke night or a raffle, you are trying to have something happening all the time to get people visiting — you've got to give them something to make their visit worthwhile."

GILL ALLEN

John McKeown, the sociable managing director of Allied Domecq Inns, is never more at home than when he is visiting one of his company's 3,800 public houses

Although an Allied Domecq man of 24 years' standing — he joined as a management trainee — he arrived there by something of a zigzag route. A Protestant background in Belfast, where his father was a clerk for the Gas Board, led to Christ's College in Cambridge and a degree in history.

Christ's in 1969 was probably the ideal place for an upwardly mobile grammar school lad from the provinces, who could expect to be taught by plenty of examples of the breed.

Even so, adjustments were difficult: he arrived on his first day, in those heady times of student radicalism, in a three-piece suit.

One wonders, on meeting Mr McKeown, whether his easy sociability was of necessity acquired there. He is certainly sociable enough now; he is enormously voluble, speaking in ready formed sentences, and avoids awkward questions simply by continuing to talk through them.

His favourite period was the English Civil War, and he retains an enormous admiration for Cromwell — "Without him I'm not sure we would have had parliamentary democracy; Charles I was a congenital liar" — which, he admits, does not sit easy with Irish friends. He retains some left-leaning sentiments, even if he admits these have been tempered by the effects of taxation on a rising salary.

"I would have loved to be an MP. It was a great ambition of mine, but I could never make up my mind which party."

This might not prove such a hindrance in today's political climate. Whatever; on graduation, a clutch of businesses came knocking with places on management training schemes, including Courtaulds and Gallaher, the cigarette maker. He chose Allied, Mr McKeown admits, simply because its scheme looked more interesting than the rest. It included six months running a pub.

Within a few years he was area manager for Liverpool, and familiar with the seamier side of the pubs business. "Scousers when they are on your side are absolutely the best people in the world. When they decide they don't like you or the company, they are very difficult." Many of Allied's pubs are by their nature in difficult areas, on rough housing estates, and it is all too easy for one to acquire a bad name, and a reputation as a reliable source of drugs, violence, or both.

"There are very few pubs genuinely unmanageable but there are one or two, in which case we don't want them. The key to the pub is if the majority of people who use that pub, the decent people, aren't big enough to close out the minority — if the trouble-makers become more than half," says Mr McKeown.

In Allied's case, many of the worst were disposed of as a result of government-inspired moves to make the big brewers sell large chunks of their tied estate. Cynics have suggested this gave those brewers an excuse to accelerate their plans to refine their pub chains while providing someone to blame for any forced sales. It does not seem to have done Allied any harm — full-year profits from all its pubs, reported this week, were up 13 per cent.

Mr McKeown disagrees with the cynics, and also with the much-quoted statistic that Britain still has some 10,000 pubs more than the market will bear. For even the roughest inner-city pub, he says, no alternative use has been found that will provide the same value.

Instead, the trade has had to improve standards of service to the customer. "Pubs used not to give particularly wonderful service in the old days. Remember how you used to return from America and say, wasn't the service wonderful? Now I think we are every bit as good as everywhere else."

[illegible] ASSETS

Crystal-clear reminders of Bonnie Prince Charlie

The Drambuie Liquor Company, the family-owned firm based just outside Edinburgh, has always been proud of its Scottish heritage. The origins of its product lie with the MacKinnon clan of Skye, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie 250 years ago when he was on the run after Culloden.

It is claimed that the Prince, carrying no possessions, gave a secret recipe to one of the clan as a reward. The recipe was for a personal liqueur, a mixture of herbs, honey and whisky — and this, it is said, is what is known today as Drambuie, or "the drink that satisfies".

Since its foundation in 1906, the company has built up a diverse collection of fine artworks, many acquired in the past ten years and all reflecting the culture and history of Scotland.

Special care has been taken to gather pieces produced by the supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Among a collection of paintings, prints and medals, it is perhaps the glassware that is most impressive — fine decorative and painted glasses made by Jacobites during the 18th century.

The Jacobite cause was concerned with issues of loyalty. And it was a matter of concern, both to the exiled Stuarts and their followers, that this loyalty should be expressed in the written word, in poetry, in the observation and commemoration of certain dates but, above all, by the commissioning, the cherishing and the possession of works of art.

These works, particularly those bearing a likeness of the exiled James, acted as a surrogate for the affections and loyalty of the "subject".

It was inevitable, therefore, that the exiled Jacobite "court", first based outside Paris and later in Rome, took a great interest in the production and distribution of works of art. Perhaps the most enduring and beautiful artistic legacy of the era — much of it produced after the failed 1745 rising — is the engraved glass that forms the core of the company's art collection.

The invention of lead crystal in the 1670s meant that English glass was the finest and clearest available and by the mid-18th century, drinking glasses were in wide use, particularly for celebrations. Jacobites thrived on celebrations and many of the serious groups of the 1720s and 1730s had become little more than drinking clubs by the 1750s.

One of the Drambuie company's finest pre-1745 pieces is an "amen" glass. Engraved entirely by hand with a diamond point, the glass bears verses of the Jacobite anthem surrounding a cipher for "James VIII" of Scotland and the prominent word "amen" translated as "let it be' (in reference to a Stuart restoration).

The post-1745 glasses are engraved by copper wheel, a skilled process involving the use of a foot treadle and bench tool. The identity of the engravers is unknown, but a distinctive iconography runs through the later glasses, suggesting a degree of affinity between the craftsmen.

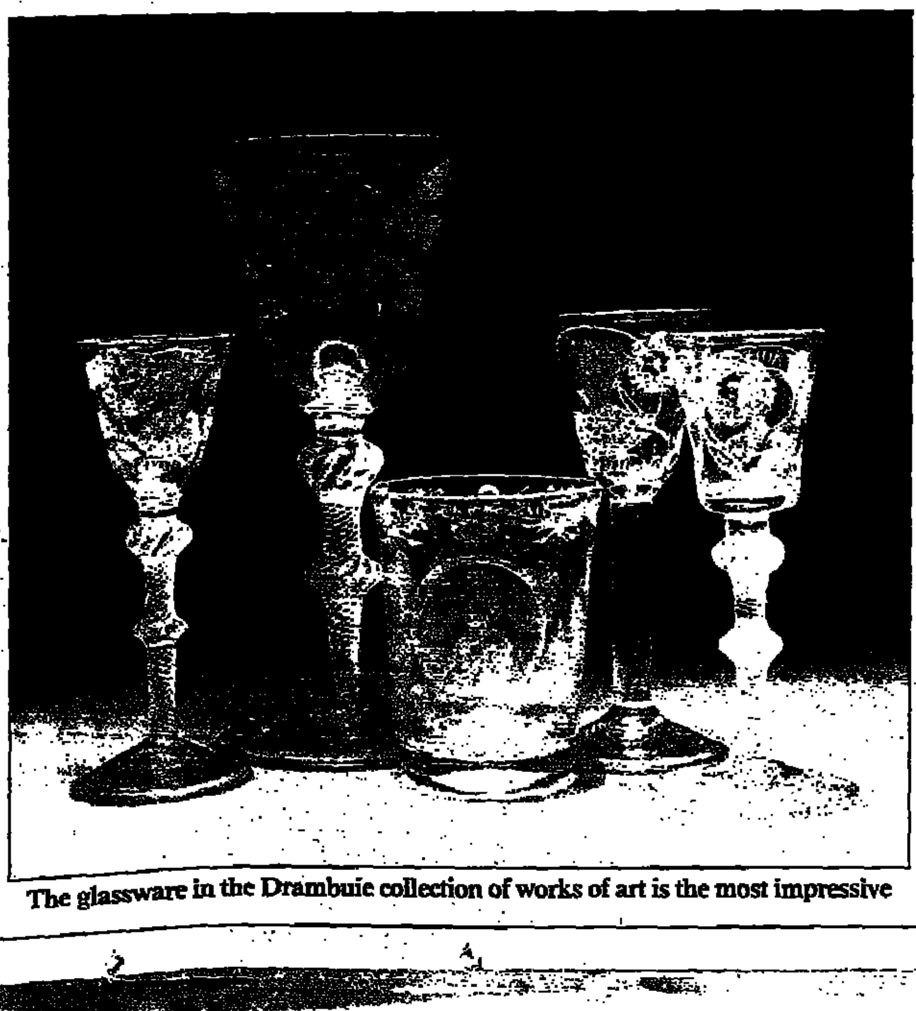
Some images crop up frequently — the rose and two buds, representing James and his heirs; the oak leaf and thistle; the moth symbolising the "return of the soul". Mottoes also appear frequently, such as *fiat* (let it be) and *redeat* (let him return). Portraits of Bonnie Prince Charlie on glasses are rare, but the Drambuie collection has a fine collection of seven.

The glasses were probably made in any one of the main glass-making towns — Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, London — and vary greatly in style. Some have bubbles of air or enamel twisted into the stems, some are elongated to make high-bowled glasses for champagne, others are flattened and attached to heavy bases, intended to be slammed sharply on the table with a sharp crack after a toast.

Larger cups and glasses would have been passed round the table for communal drinking and finger-bowls would have been placed so that the drinker could pass his own glass "over the water" during a toast to the "King" — making it clear where his true sovereign was to be found.

It is not clear how grave an offence it was to possess a Jacobite glass, or any similar work of art, in the post-1745 period, but a degree of concealment was required. For that reason and because of their vulnerability it is likely that many of the glasses have not survived.

The Drambuie collection is particularly remarkable, therefore, not just in the range and diversity of Jacobite glasses in its collection, but also in their fine state of preservation.


The glassware in the Drambuie collection of works of art is the most impressive

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Cookson shares driven higher by takeover talk

COOKSON, the industrial materials group that has been the subject of several profit downgradings recently, enjoyed a brief revival of fortunes as speculators talked of a possible bid for the company.

After coming within 6p of its low for the year during the first hour of trading, the price bounced back to close 17p better at 236½p as word went round that the company was looking vulnerable to an approach. By the close of business almost five million shares had changed hands.

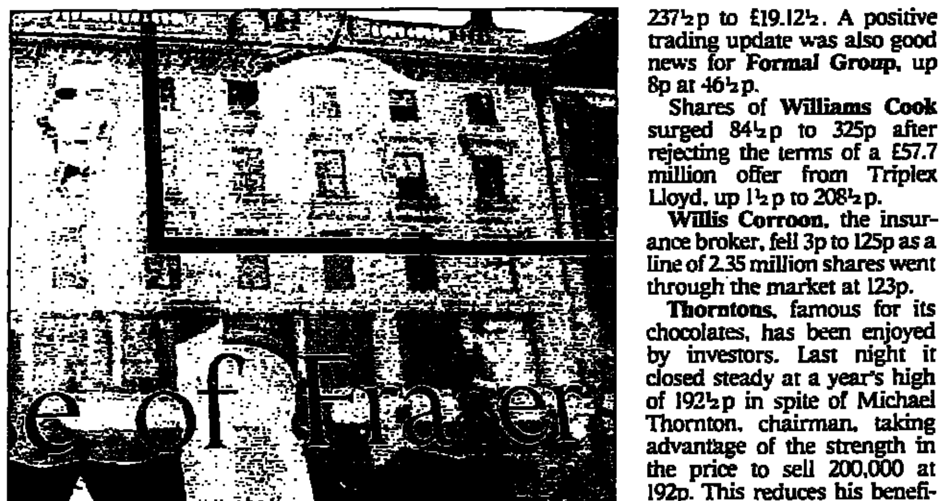
The names being linked with **Cookson** were **BBA**, the automotive parts group, down 1½p at 354½p, and **Johnson Matthey**, the precious metals group, 5p cheaper at 552½p. Johnson Matthey has links with Cookson through a ceramics joint venture. Merger talks between the two, which would have valued the combined group at £2.5 billion, broke down in November, 1994.

BBA, on the other hand, failed in its attempt to win control of Lucas Industries after launching a billion pound plus assault. Lucas eventually merged with Varity, of the US. But BBA succeeded in showing the City the sort of firepower it could muster.

The deterioration of the electronics market in Europe has hit Cookson hard and prompted NatWest Securities, a long-term bear of the shares, to slash its forecast earlier this month by £20 million to £170 million for the current year.

Elsewhere, share prices took heart from Wall Street's record-breaking run to end the week on a firm note. Worries persist about another imminent rise in interest rates after this week's jump in inflation. But that was all forgotten as the Dow Jones industrial average kicked in last night with a 63-point rise to a record high in early trading. As a result, the FT-SE 100 index closed just a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 32.1 points at 3,958.2 as turnover reached 838 million shares. That is a rise on the week's trading of 47.4 points.

Speculation that **Burton Group**, ¾p firmer at 144½p, is about to bid for **House of Fraser** drove the latter's share price 9½p higher to 151½p. **Sears** was also being talked of as a potential takeover target. The price rose 2½p to 91p as turnover topped ten million shares. **Next** also finished the week on a high note with a rise of 14p at 569½p.



Bid speculation pushed up House of Fraser's share price

Northern Electric rose 8p to 609p, with CalEnergy tipped to come back with a higher offer of 660p a share. Speculative buying brightened up the day for shareholders of **Southern Electric** as the price soared 28½p 706½p. The first results from **Railtrack** since privatisation were warmly received, with the shares accelerating 38p to 323p. That compares with the 190p they were floated at in the spring. Pre-tax profits up from £98 million to £177 million were at the top end of expectations. Shareholders were rewarded with a first-time payment of 7.3p.

A profits warning took its toll on **Inspirations**, the tour operator, where the price dipped 6p to 73½p. The group said full-year results would be substantially below expectations. It also said it might not pay a final dividend.

A strong set of third-quarter figures lifted **Flextech** 2p to 681p. The group saw a sharp rise in revenues that helped reduce the deficit from £5.7 million to £3.8 million. Revenues were boosted by its satellite channels, which include the Home Shopping Channel, Family Channel and Playboy.

Brokers have begun the task of upgrading their profit forecasts for **Dawson Holdings** after an upbeat trading statement. The Aim-listed information provider said that results for the year to September would be well ahead of current forecasts. Analysts had been looking for £7.5 million, but have now pencilled in £9 million. The shares jumped 237½p to £19.12½. A positive trading update was also good news for **Formal Group**, up 8p at 46½p.

Shares of **Williams Cook** surged 84½p to 325p after rejecting the terms of a £57.7 million offer from Triplex Lloyd, up 1½p to 208½p.

Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, fell 3p to 125p as a line of 2.35 million shares went through the market at 123p.

Thorntons, famous for its chocolates, has been enjoyed by investors. Last night it closed steady at a year's high of 192½p in spite of Michael Thornton, chairman, taking advantage of the strength in the price to sell 200,000 at 192p. This reduces his beneficial holding to 2.35 million shares, or 3.65 per cent.

On the Alternative Investment Market, shares of **Barisford**, which specialises in residential property investment in the Kensington and Chelsea areas of London, enjoyed a modest premium in first-time trading. Placed at 6p by Charles Stanley, the broker, the price finished the day at 7p.

Limelight got off to a slow start on its public debut, with the price opening at 174½p, a small discount to the 175p offer price. It later rallied to close at 182½p, a premium of 7½p.

A threefold surge in first-half profits at **Symonds** lifted the shares 2p to 69p. Pre-tax profits leapt from £520,000 to £1.62 million, including an £892,000 contribution from acquisitions.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The market was able to extend the strong gains of Thursday with the help of some weaker US industrial production figures.

This week's shock rise in the inflation rate was all but forgotten as London outperformed other European bond markets with support from another strong performance by the pound.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt hardened £¼ at £110¹⁄₁₆ as a total of 87,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 also put on £¼ to £102³⁄₁₆, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks better at £102²⁷⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares continued their week-long surge, posting another round of sharp gains. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average had been marked up 51.43 points to 6,364.43.

BAT Industries stood out with a rise of 7p, to 427p, still close to its year low, having fallen from a 585p peak. Brokers say the price remains overshadowed by US cancer-related litigation. However, the fears have been overdone. Société Générale Strauss Turnbull is the latest broker to make the shares a "buy".

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
East Midlands Elec.	625½p	+32p	Dominion bids 670p a share
Allied Domecq	454½p	-30p	Figures/no demerger
My Kinda Town	187p	+20p	Capital Radio bids £51 million
Chesterfield Prop	537½p	+35p	Reverse takeover by Albion
House of Fraser	151½p	+16p	Bid speculation
Eurodis Election	152½p	-17½p	Profits warning
Great Universal Stores	670p	+87½p	Pays £1 billion for Experian
Psion	455p	+38½p	Raising £14 million for expansion
Railtrack	323p	+46p	Bumper profits

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6364.43 (+51.43)
S&P Composite	740.94 (+5.06)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20929.73 (-101.31)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12889.37 (-115.43)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	608.88 (+3.97)
Sydney:	
AO	2387.3 (+24.8)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2795.80 (+18.79)
Singapore:	
Straits	2193.64 (+3.88)
Brussels:	
General	10237.89 (+84.80)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2240.33 (+22.15)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	820.90 (+7.20)
London:	
FT 30	2775.8 (+14.8)
FT 100	3958.2 (+32.1)
FTSE Mid 250	4409.9 (+11.0)
FTSE 350	1973.3 (+13.6)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1826.08 (+14.32)
FT All-Share	1948.15 (+12.60)
FT Non Financials	2036.87 (+14.84)
FT Fixed Interest	115.72 (+0.35)
FT Govt Secs	94.10 (+0.29)
Bargains	38875
SEAQ Volume	480.0m
USM (Datastrm)	202.02 (-0.09)
US$	1.6661 (+0.0026)
German Mark	2.5130 (+0.0028)
Exchange Index	92.0 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3006
£:SDR	1.1396
RPI	153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Barrasford	7	...
Beaufort (3)	4	...
Beechcroft	4	...
Brands Hatch Leis	172½	...
Britt Allcroft	159½	...
Charles Taylor	165	...
Corp Exec Search (3)	4½	...
Deep Sea Leisure	162½	- 2
First Russian Frts C	610	+ 2½
Geo Interactive Md	96	...
Healthcare Reform	99½	...
Jardinerie Interiors	122½	...
John David Sports	300	...
Limelight	182½	...
Loftus Road (72)	69½	...
Majestic Wines	214	- 4½
Mears Group	11¾	...
Mondas (75)	90½	...
Oriental Restaurants	231½	...
Scot Highland Htls	136½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

AG Holdings n/p	10½	- 2
Bridport-Gundry n/p	1¼	...
Capital Shop 625% n/p	2¼	...
European Leis n/p	13½	...
Perkins Foods n/p (74)	3½	...
Springwood n/p	76½	- 6

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Admiral	370p (+28p)
Filtronic Com	220p (+16p)
Photobition	384p (+15½p)
REXAM	347p (+10p)
Osborne & Little	900p (+25p)
Next	569½p (+14p)
Business Post	490p (+10p)
Scot & New	641p (+11p)

FALLS:

Micro Focus	792½p (-65p)
Therp Anti Inc	460p (-10p)
Oxford Inst	460p (-10p)
De La Rue	546½p (-11p)
Kewill Sys	439½p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

Prudent shopping list

PRUDENCE seems to have finally got the better of Peter Davies, chief executive of the venerable lady of Holborn. He has been keeping a low profile since his frank admission that both a a mutual life insurer and a building society were possible acquisitions. Shopping lists are acceptable in a publishing conglomerate but look a bit vulgar in the City and Peter Davies is now sick of being asked when he is going to buy the Woolwich.

Yet the gossip continues. The City has been having fun guessing which names are top of the list: should the Prudential merge with the Halifax, or is Abbey National the better bet? Abbey offer the Pru a bank and access to independent financial advisers through Scottish Mutual Assurance. The Pru is weak in IFAs, who control the best of the high earning life and pensions customers. Abbey intends to use its treasury division to increase the percentage of profits earned from its non-traditional activies from 35 per cent to 50 per cent within four years. The Pru's clout in pensions would make this a financial behemoth.

The Halifax, meanwhile, has an unrivalled distribution network in the high street and, through Clerical Medical, the IFA life assurance presence that Prudential has already identified as being a top priority.

Such huge targets — Abbey is worth some £9 billion — imply a merger and the sticking point is agreeing who gets the plum job. In Abbey's case that might be solved more easily: chief executive Peter Birch steps down in 1998 and agreeing such a mega merger might be a useful way for him to say farewell.

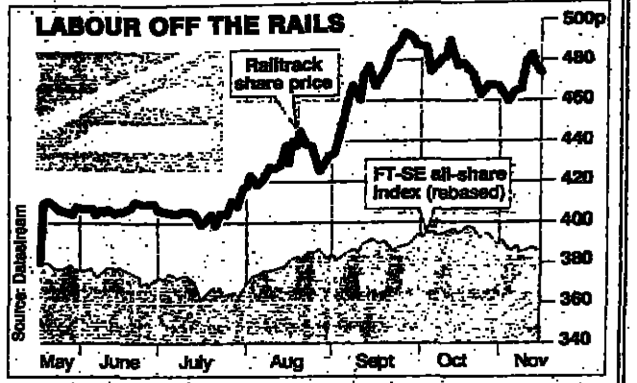
Railtrack

RAILTRACK is turning into another privatisation honeypot. On the surface, Railtrack's performance does not look overly impressive. Most of the gain in the half year came from a debt write-off, courtesy of the Government. Railtrack's interest charge for the half year has plummeted from £62 million to £19 million, accounting for a goodly bit of the pre-tax profit increase from £98 million to £173 million.

That is to ignore what is happening behind the scenes. Railtrack is falling far behind its budgeted investment on infrastructure and the underspend amounts to hundreds of millions. Every year the company sets aside some £400 million to £500 million for rebuilding bridges, stations and other structures. But for the two years to March 1996, the company rolled up £267 million that was due to be spent. In the half year just ended, the total saving rose another £66 million.

Railtrack says that spending on infrastructure will rise. In the end, the company must rebuild crumbling bridges, but it is highly unlikely that the privatised management will permit such projects to cost as much as budgeted and the rolled up savings will make a handsome present to shareholders. Silence from the Labour Party is good news for investors. They have either failed to spot the cash hoard or they now realise that public ownership of rail would cost taxpayers even more.

LABOUR OFF THE RAILS



Source: Datastream

Triplex Lloyd

THE IGNOMINY of being the target of a hostile bid begins early in the morning. Andrew Cook, the formidable chairman of William Cook, first heard of Triplex Lloyd's intentions when he received a "courtesy" phone call over breakfast yesterday. By the time he had issued his curt rebuff in the afternoon, it was already apparent that the predator had delivered what may be a decisive blow.

Certainly, struck at a 30 per cent premium to the opening share price, the 309p offer has its attractions. There is, too, some merit in Triplex Lloyd's argument that the two recent share buybacks by William Cook is evidence of a shortcoming in investment ideas. And while Mr Cook disputes the amount of synergy between the companies, Triplex Lloyd at least has expansion plans.

White knights aside, the only issue left is whether institutions will hold out in support of Mr Cook's argument that the offer undervalues an already underpriced company. At eleven and a half times historic earnings and ten times prospective, the exit multiple looks modest.

Triplex, however, still has an ace up its sleeve. It has already highlighted £1.5 million of additional profit that will come from enhanced sales opportunities. Meanwhile, analysts believe that another £1 million could come from removing surplus overheads. That gives Triplex encouragement — and room to pay more.

General Cable

IT WOULD be pushing it to say that General Cable shines in a lacklustre industry, but it does have its merits. It was one of the few players to attack the business-telephony market and the effort is beginning to pay off. Its revenue per business customer is the highest in the industry and it was one of the first two cable companies to generate positive cash flow. General is the only player in the sector whose shares are trading above the flotation price.

The apparent success of business telephony, however, is no reason on its own to load up on General Cable shares. It, like all its rivals, is still plagued by high disconnection rates. To make matters worse, British Telecom is putting more pressure on the cable companies by cutting its residential call charges.

But business fundamentals do not provide the whole story. The cable industry is consolidating rapidly. The last round, which saw Mercury Communications merge with Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron, has left General Cable, TeleWest, Comcast and International CableTel looking lonely. Of the lot, General Cable is considered most attractive and may attract the best takeover premium.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	888-887	Mar	999-998
Mar	925-924	May	1009-1008
May	938 BID	Jul	1022-1018
Jul	953-952	Sep	1037-1028
Sep	970 BID		
Dec	983 BID		Volume: 4050

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	1505-1500	Jul	1372-1367
Jan	1440-1438	Sep	1374-1365
Mar	1387-1386	Nov	1371-1360
May	1372-1370		Volume: 2248

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	305.0-04.3
Spot: 310.5		Oct	300.0-98.3
Dec	308.5-03.7	Dec	302.0-99.5
Mar	303.5-03.3	Mar	305.5-00.0
May	304.3-03.6		Volume: 918

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 14

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	88.48	135.06	110.14
(+/-)	-1.29	-0.23	+6.77
Eng/Wales:	88.35	135.72	108.93
(+/-)	-1.26	+0.42	+6.73
(%)	+4.0	+19.0	-5.0
Scotland:	100.19	132.00	114.39
(+/-)	-3.49	-3.25	+6.89
(%)	-5.0	+32.0	-5.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	23.40	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Dec)	23.50	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Jan)	23.00	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	24.15	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	23.85	+0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	232 (+2)	234 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	228 (-1)	231 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	115 (n/c)	117 (n/c)
Naphtha	225 (-1)	227 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	220.50-20.75	Mar	202.00-02.25
Jan	216.25-16.50	Apr	194.50-94.75
Feb	209.50-09.75		Vol: 10431

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	23.50-23.51	Apr	21.91-21.98
Feb	23.04-23.07	May	21.36-21.43
Mar	22.50-22.53		Vol: 12518

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	93.50	Nov	91.60
Jan	95.60	Jan	92.75
Mar	97.30	Mar	94.00
May	98.50	May	95.00
Jul	99.75	Sep	91.85
Volume: 266		Volume: 30	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	60.5
Apr	68.0	67.5
May	unq	76.5
		Volume: 77

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Nov 81.00-81.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 96	1420	1410	1410
Dec 96	1340	1314	1318
Jan 97	1311	1290	1298
Apr 97	1320	1315	1320
Vol: 461 lots		Open interest: 3917	

Index 1515 -6

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2225.0-2230.0	2132.0-2134.0	2131450
Lead ($/tonne)	721.00-722.00	729.00-729.50	200625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1044.0-1045.0	1063.5-1064.0	390650
Tin ($/tonne)	6005.0-6015.0	6036.0-6040.0	24970
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1419.0-1420.0	1441.0-1442.0	1231100
Nickel ($/tonne)	7013.0-7018.0	7120.0-7125.0	105804

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom	420	35½	39	42½	6½	12	18½
(*453½)	460	10	17½	22½	27	32½	39½
ASDA	110	12	13½	16	1	3	4
(*119½)	120	5	8	10	4½	7	8
Boots	600	24	40½	48½	11	18	27
(*617)	650	7	17	24	42½	46½	54
Br Airways	550	53	67½	75½	5	12	18
(*598½)	600	22	38	45½	23	30½	38½
BP	650	39½	53½	62	12	23	29½
(*670½)	700	16½	29½	37½	38½	47	54½
Br Steel	160	12½	17	20	2½	5	9½
(*172)	180	3	7	10½	13	15	20
C & W	460	30	43	51½	9	15	22
(*482½)	500	10½	22	31	27½	35	41½
CU	600	54	63½	68½	5	15	19½
(*643½)	650	20½	33	40	21	38½	43
ICI	750	38	50½	58½	13	30½	36
(*768)	800	13½	25½	34½	39	58½	64
Land Sec	700	30	45½	54	7½	13½	22
(*726)	750	7½	19	26½	35½	39	48½
M & S	460	31	42	46½	4	9	13½
(*482)	500	9	19½	24	22½	27	32
Nat West	650	53	61½	69	6	20	27
(*690)	700	22	32	41½	24½	45½	52
Safeway plc	360	12½	23½	28½	14	19½	26½
(*361)	390	3½	11½	16	35	38½	45½
Sainsbury	360	14½	24	27½	9	14	20½
(*361½)	390	4	10½	15	29½	32	38½
Shell	950	52	64	76½	9	27	31
(*986)	1000	23½	40½	48	29	47½	55
Smkl Bch	750	36½	53	66½	16½	30	38½
(*762½)	800	14½	29½	43	45	56½	64½
Storehse	300	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	330	0	—	—	0	—	—
Trafalgar	50	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	101½	132½	158½	40	62½	79½
(*1647½)	1700	54	81	108	90	113	129
	Series	**Nov**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Nov**	**Jan**	**Apr**
BAT Ind	420	9½	23½	35	2	12	25
(*427)	460	0½	8½	16½	33	36	51½
Vodafone	220	19	22	29	0	3½	7
(*239)	240	2½	10	17½	4	11½	15½
	Series	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Grnd Met	460	10	23	32½	1	16½	22
(*469)	500	0	7½	15½	31	42½	46½
Ladbroke	180	18½	23	26	0	2	5½
(*198½)	200	1	9½	13½	3	8	13½
Utd Bisc	200	3½	13	16½	1	7½	12
(*202½)	220	0	4½	8	17½	20	25

November 15, 1996 Tot: 83978 Call: 44836 Put: 39142 FTSE Call: 24760 Put: 10542

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	29½	41½	49	5½	11½	15
(*485)	500	8½	20	27½	24	30½	34
Thames W	550	32½	47	55½	8	17	29½
(*568½)	600	9	22	30	34	41½	57
	Series	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
BTR	220	18	25	28	0	4	7½
(*238)	240	2	13	16	3½	10½	16½
Br Aero	1100	45	78½	96	0½	20	31
(*1143½)	1150	8½	48½	67½	13	40	52
Br Telcm	360	12½	20½	27½	1	12	15½
(*371½)	390	0	7½	14	18½	30½	32½
Cadbury	500	8½	27	34½	1½	13½	23
(*507)	550	0	7	13½	43	45	54½
Guinness	420	25½	36½	43	0	5	12½
(*445)	460	1	13½	20½	15	22½	32½
GEC	360	7	18½	26½	1½	10½	15
(*365½)	390	0	6½	13	24½	29½	31½
Hanson	110	5½	8½	—	1	5	—
(*115½)	119	0½	4½	—	5	10	—
LASMO	200	9	18	20½	1	5½	7½
(*208½)	220	0	8½	12	12	15	17½
LucasVarity	220	19½	27	31½	0	4½	7½
(*239½)	240	3	14½	20	3½	11	15½
Pilkingtn	140	18	21½	25	0	1	2½
(*158)	160	1	8½	13	3	7½	9½
Prudential	460	5½	24	31	4	17	26½
(*461)	500	0	9	14½	39	42½	52
Redland	390	22½	35	42	0	7	14½
(*412)	420	2	17	24½	8½	19	29
R-Royce	240	7	19	21½	1	9	13
(*246)	260	0	9½	12	14	20	23½
Tesco	300	29½	37	42½	0½	3	8
(*329)	330	3½	16½	23	4	12½	20
Williams	330	7½	—	—	1	—	—
(*336½)	360	0	—	—	23½	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*3958)

	3850	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100
Calls						
Nov	108	58	8	0	0	0
Dec	151	110½	73½	43½	22½	10
Jan	173	135	101½	71	47½	30
Feb	197	160	128½	98½	74	52½
Jun	—	228½	—	170	—	119
Puts						
Nov	0	0	0	42	92	142
Dec	17	26½	42	65	98	142
Jan	31	43	61½	84	112½	148½
Feb	49	62½	81	102½	129	160½
Jun	—	121½	—	164	—	213

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Dec	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Abby Nat	600	51	65½	72½	2	16	21
(*645½)	650	16	34	43½	17	38½	43½
Amstrad	160	13½	—	—	3½	—	—
(*169½)	180	4½	—	—	13½	—	—
Barclays	950	31	57	70	12½	41	49
(*962)	1000	10	32½	47	42	69½	77½
Nat Pwr	400	44	52	—	1	7	—
(*443½)	450	7	21½	—	18	25	—
	Series	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo W	950	38	58½	73	23½	45	54
(*954½)	1000	16	35½	51	52½	73½	82
HSBC	1250	62	92	116½	21½	53½	72
(*1279)	1300	34	65	90½	43	79½	97
Reuter	700	48	65	77½	9½	23	39½
(*731½)	750	20	38	51	30	46½	53
Royal & Sun	394	36½	43½	—	3	13	—
(*423½)	431	13½	21½	—	17	31½	—
	Series	**Dec**	**Feb**	**May**	**Dec**	**Feb**	**May**
Blue Circ	360	21½	29	35	3	7	14½
(*376½)	390	5	13	19	16½	20	30
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Kingfishr	600	42	52	59½	15	27½	32½
(*618)	650	17½	27½	35½	41½	54	59
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Unilever	1350	31½	62	73	13½	25	46
(*1374½)	1400	9½	35½	46½	42½	51	72
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Br Gas	200	12½	19½	22	2½	5½	10½
(*209)	220	3½	9½	12½	13	15½	21
Dixons	550	20½	37	49½	11	23	29
(*556)	600	3½	16½	27½	44½	52½	57½
EMI Group	1250	45½	77½	105½	16½	40	50½
(*1272½)	1300	20½	52½	79	40½	65	74½
Tarmac	80	9	12	13½	0½	2	3
(*88)	90	2½	6½	8	4	6	7½
Hillsdwn	160	15	19	21	1	2½	6½
(*173½)	180	2½	7½	9½	8	11	16½
Lonrho	130	8	11½	13½	1½	5½	7
(*135½)	140	2½	6½	8½	6	10½	12
Sears	90	4½	—	—	2	—	—
(*91)	100	1	—	—	9	—	—
Thorn EMI	1600	48	—	—	16	—	—
(*1620)	1700	8½	—	—	81	—	—
Tomkins	240	18½	24	29½	2	7½	8½
(*255)	260	6½	13	18½	9½	15	18
Lloyds TSB	390	9	18½	24½	7	19	23½
(*390)	420	1	6½	13	30	39½	43
Scot Pwr	294	30	34½	—	0½	4	—
(*322)	323	8	16	—	7	15½	—

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 63128	Dec 96	3950.0	3986.0	3947.0	3982.0	16126
	Mar 97				3998.0	0
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 4193	Dec 96				4426.0	0
	Mar 97					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 524489	Dec 96	93.52	93.55	93.51	93.53	13879
	Mar 97	93.24	93.26	93.21	93.24	14656
	Jun 97	92.93	92.96	92.91	92.93	13703
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.36	99.36	99.36	99.36	19
	Jun 97	99.20	99.20	99.19	99.20	450
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1104043	Dec 96	96.81	96.81	96.80	96.80	9418
	Mar 97	96.84	96.84	96.81	96.81	13435
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 142313	Dec 96	109-31	110-13	109-25	110-02	94536
	Mar 97	109-10	109-21	109-10	109-12	1175
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	124.65	124.80	124.65	124.76	1591
	Mar 97	123.80	123.87	123.78	123.84	430
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 277682	Dec 96	101.12	101.14	100.86	101.02	129193
	Mar 97	100.10	100.14	99.93	100.05	5714
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 28500	Dec 96	95.84	95.85	95.83	95.85	477
	Mar 97	95.84	95.85	95.83	95.85	318
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 94325	Dec 96	97.97	97.97	97.80	97.86	7354
	Mar 97	97.95	97.95	97.75	97.83	16070
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 101612	Dec 96	127.67	127.79	127.13	127.40	49204
	Mar 97	126.40	126.60	126.40	126.53	981

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5 13/16

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 ; 3 mth 6 1/32 . Sell: 2 mth 6¼ ; 3 mth: 5 31/32 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5 15/16-5⅞	6⅛-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6¼-6 3/16	
Sterling Money Rates: Interbank:	6 1/32-6 1/32	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6 3/16	6⅜-6¼	6 13/16-6½
	6⅛-6 1/32	6 3/16-6⅛	6¼-6 3/16	6⅜-6¼	6 11/16-6⅝
Overnight: open 5⅞, close 5¾ .					
Local Authority Deps:	6 1/32	n/a	6 3/16	6½	6⅝
Sterling CDs:	6 1/32-6	6⅛-6 1/16	6 11/32-6 11/32	6 11/32-6 11/32	6⅝-6 17/32
Dollar CDs:	5.30	n/a	5.38	5.42	5.58
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6 1/32	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6 3/16	6⅜-6½	6⅝-6⅝

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £906m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.48% received: 34%; Last week: £98.52% received: 6%: Avge rate: £6.0429% last wk £5.9068%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2 15/16	3 5/16-3 3/16	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2½
French Franc:	3½-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3¼-2¼
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1 11/16-1 9/16	1 11/16-1 9/16	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $381.35-381.65 Close: $379.50-380.00 High: $381.35-381.65 Low: $378.00-378.50 AM: $379.85 PM: $379.25

Krugerrand: $379.00-382.00 (£227.50-229.50)

Platinum: $384.25 (£230.55) Silver: $4.86 (£2.915) Palladium: $117.75 (£70.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for November 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8124-2.8189	2.8172-2.8189	⅝-½pr	2½-2¼pr
Brussels	51.650-51.810	51.752-51.834	16-11pr	45-39pr
Copenhagen	9.6260-9.6430	9.6438-9.6500	2½-1¼pr	6⅞-5⅞pr
Dublin	0.9981-1.0010	0.9986-1.0001	6-2pr	19-13pr
Frankfurt	2.5079-2.5142	2.5126-2.5142	⅝-½pr	2-1½pr
Lisbon	253.34-254.22	253.92-254.17	¼-⅛ds	¼-⅛ds
Madrid	211.51-211.63	211.52-211.63	9-19ds	14-32ds
Milan	2522.9-2529.4	2526.7-2529.4	23-39ds	55-77ds
Montreal	2.2256-2.2318	2.2299-2.2314	0.60-0.54pr	0.129-0.121pr
New York	1.6642-1.6667	1.6662-1.6667	0.113-0.092pr	0.375-0.345pr
Oslo	10.524-10.552	10.545-10.552	⅝-⅜pr	⅝-⅜pr
Paris	8.4710-8.4960	8.4885-8.4935	2-1½pr	6½-6pr
Stockholm	10.995-11.052	11.036-11.052	⅝-⅜pr	⅝-⅜pr
Tokyo	184.03-185.53	185.03-185.25	⅝-½pr	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	17.645-17.694	17.682-17.694	⅝-⅜pr	1⅝-1⅜pr
Zurich	2.1197-2.1317	2.1294-2.1317	⅝-½pr	2½-2¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2658-1.2666
Austria	10.60-10.61
Belgium (Com)	31.05-31.06
Canada	1.3395-1.3400
Denmark	5.7875-5.7910
France	5.0925-5.0955
Germany	1.5070-1.5075
Hong Kong	7.7318-7.7323
Ireland	1.6648-1.6668
Italy	1515.75-1516.75
Japan	110.95-111.00
Malaysia	2.5230-2.5240
Netherlands	1.6900-1.6906
Norway	6.3280-6.3300
Portugal	152.34-152.39
Singapore	1.3983-1.3990
Spain	126.85-126.89
Sweden	6.6243-6.6318
Switzerland	1.2782-1.2787

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6640-1.6667
Australia dollar	2.1063-2.1089
Bahrain dinar	0.6225-0.6345
Brazil real*	1.7204-1.7248
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.7575-0.7675
Finland markka	7.0525-7.6185
Greece drachma	383.0-400.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.8657-12.8743
India rupee	59.13-60.09
Indonesia rupiah	3861.0-3929.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4930-0.5030
Malaysia ringgit	4.1995-4.2025
New Zealand dollar	2.3543-2.3574
Pakistan rupee	66.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0075-6.1315
Singapore dollar	2.3275-2.3293
S Africa rand (com)	7.7320-7.8340
U A E dirham	6.0600-6.1840

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	241	Lloyds TSB	6,600
ASDA Gp	10,600	LucasVarity	551
Abbey Ntl	3,300	Marks Spr	6,400
Allied Dom	2,900	NatWst Bk	3,100
Argos	292	Nat Grid	1,900
AB Foods	2,200	Nat Power	5,700
BAA	1,200	Next	3,300
BAT Inds	7,800	Orange	9,300
BOC	295	P & O	575
BP	8,200	Pearson	1,600
BSkyB	1,200	Pilkington	3,100
BTR	42,200	PowerGen	11,400
BT	33,000	Prudential	4,200
Bk of Scot	1,500	RMC	108
Barclays	1,600	RTZ	1,700
Bass	2,300	Railtrack	16,800
Blue Circle	1,400	Rank Group	3,000
Boots	2,800	Reckitt Col	1,700
BAe	515	Redland	1,100
BA	2,300	Reed Intl	2,100
Brit Gas	12,600	Rentokil	13,200
Brit Steel	26,800	Reuters	2,500
Burmah Cstl	525	Rolls Royce	1,700
Burton	4,400	Royal & Sun	3,000
Cable Wire	3,800	Royal Bk Sct	1,300
Cadbury	1,700	Safeway	1,800
Carlton Cms	685	Sainsbury	4,800
Cm Union	858	Schroders	407
Courtaulds	1,100	Scot & New	2,100
Dixons	1,000	Scot Power	569
EMI	663	Svrn Trent	1,400
Enterpr Oil	1,200	Shell Trans	2,400
GKN	694	Siebe	1,100
GRE	1,200	SmKl Bch	3,000
GUS	3,900	Smith Nph	4,600
Gen Acc	1,500	Smiths Inds	457
Gen Elec	3,400	Std Chartd	7,100
Glaxo Well	5,300	TI Gp	852
Granada	1,800	Tate & Lyle	133
Grand Met	4,900	Tesco	5,600
Guinness	5,400	Thames W	642
HSBC	2,300	Tomkins	2,000
Hanson	10,700	Unilever	1,400
ICI	1,300	Utd Utilities	1,800
Imp Tob	3,700	Utd News	715
Kingfisher	978	Vodafone	6,500
LASMO	4,400	Whitbread	2,000
Ladbroke	2,100	Wlms Hld	817
Land Secs	645	Wolseley	801
Legal & Gn	2,800	Zeneca	1,400

[illegible]

	Nov 15 midday	Nov 14 close
AMP Inc	35⅝	35¼
AMR Corp	87⅛	86½
ASA	39⅝	39⅜
AT & T	37⅛	37⅛
Abbott Labs	54⅝	53⅞
Advanced Micro	25⅛	24⅝
Aetna Life	69⅝	69⅝
Ahmanson (HF)	31½	31½
Air Prod & Chem	68⅛	69
AirTouch Commun	26⅛	26½
Alberto-Culver B	48	47⅜
Albertson's	36½	35⅞
Alcan Aluminum	35⅛	34⅝
Alco Standard	50⅝	49⅝
Allied Signal	72⅛	72⅛
Alum Co of Am	61½	61½
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	55⅞	56
Amer Brands	49⅜	49⅛
Amer El Power	42⅛	42⅛
Amer Express	50⅝	50⅞
Amer Genl Corp	39⅜	39⅛
Amer Home Pr	63⅞	62⅝
Amer Intl	109⅝	109⅞
Amer Stores	40⅞	39⅛
Amer Standard	37⅛	37
Ameritech	55⅝	55
Amoco	76⅞	76⅛
Anheuser-Busch	41½	41½
Apple Computer	25⅝	25⅝
Archer Daniels	22⅞	21½
Armco	4½	4
Armstrng Wrld	71⅞	69⅞
Asarco	27⅛	26½
Atl Richfield	132	131½
Auto Data Pro	42⅛	42⅛
Avery Dennison	69⅝	69⅞
Avon Products	56⅝	56⅞
Baker Hughes	37⅛	37⅛
Baltim Gas & El	27⅝	28
Banc One	42⅞	42⅛
BankAmerica	96⅝	96
Bank of NY	33⅝	32⅞
Bankers Tr NY	84½	82⅞
Barnett Banks	41⅝	40⅞
Bausch & Lomb	33⅞	33⅛
Baxter Intl	43⅝	42⅞
Becton Dickinsn	40⅞	40⅝
Bell Atlantic	61½	61
Bell Industries	18⅞	18⅛
BellSouth	40⅛	39⅝
Black & Decker	33⅞	34⅛
Block (H&R)	28⅝	28
Boeing	93⅝	92⅝
Boise Cascade	29⅝	28
Bristol Myrs Sq	110⅝	110⅝
Browning Ferris	26	25⅞
Brunswick	25⅛	25⅛
Burlington Nthn	86⅛	86⅝
CMS Energy Corp	32⅛	31½
CNA Financial	102⅝	102⅛
CPC Intl	80⅞	80⅛
CSX	44⅛	44⅛
Campbell Soup	82⅝	81⅞
Can Pacific	26⅞	26½
Carolina Pwr	36⅛	35⅝
Caterpillar	74⅛	74⅝
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	41½	41⅞
Chase Manhat	89⅛	89⅛
Chevron Corp	66⅛	66
Chrysler	32⅝	32⅛
Chubb Corp	53⅛	53⅝
Cigna Corp	137⅛	136⅝
Citicorp	104⅝	103⅞
Clorox	108⅝	107⅛
Coastal Corp	46⅛	46⅞
Coca Cola	52⅞	52⅛
Coca Cola Ent	47⅛	46⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	95⅝	94
Columbia Gas	61½	61½
ColumbiaHCA	37⅛	37⅛
Compaq Comp	76⅝	77
Comp Ass Int	60⅛	58⅞
Conagra	52⅞	52⅝
Conrail	97	95⅝
Cons Edison	29⅝	29⅛
Cons Nat Gas	55	54⅝
Cooper Inds	41	41
Corestates	52⅛	50⅝
Corning Inc	39⅞	39⅝
Crown Cork	50⅝	50⅝
Dana Corp	30⅝	30
Dayton Hudson	38	35⅝
Deere	42⅝	41½
Delta Air Lines	76⅛	75⅛
Deluxe Corp	33⅝	31⅞
Digital Equip	36⅛	33⅞
Dillard Dept St	29⅞	29⅛
Disney (Walt)	72⅛	70⅝
Dominion Res	40	40⅛
Donnelley (RR)	33⅝	32⅝
Dover Corp	52⅝	52⅛
Dow Chemical	85⅞	84⅞
Dow Jones	33⅛	33⅝
Dresser	32⅝	32⅛
Duke Power	48	48⅛
Dun & Brdstreet	22⅝	22⅝
Du Pont	93	92
Eastman Chem	58	56½
Eastman Kodak	84⅝	83⅝
Eaton Corp	67⅛	65
Edison Intl	19⅝	19⅝
Emerson Elec	103⅛	99⅝
Engelhard Corp	18⅝	19⅝
Enron Corp	44⅛	44½
Entergy	28⅛	28⅝
Ethyl Corp	8⅝	8⅞
Exxon	90⅝	90⅛
FMC Corp	76⅛	76⅝
FPL Group	47⅛	47⅞
Federal Express	42⅝	42⅝
Fed Nat Mtge	39⅞	39⅝
First Bk Sys	68⅛	67⅛
First Union Rty	10⅛	10⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	52⅝	51½
Fluor Corp	68⅝	68⅝
Ford Motor	31⅛	31½
GTE Corp	44⅝	43⅝
Gannett	77⅝	77⅝
Gap Inc Del	31½	31½
Gencorp	16⅞	16⅝
Gen Dynamics	72⅛	71⅝
Gen Electric	105⅝	104⅝
Gen Mills	59⅝	58⅝
Gen Motors	55⅝	55⅝
Gen Reinsurance	138⅛	137⅝
Gen Signal	41½	41½
Genuine Parts	44⅝	44½
Georgia Pac	71⅝	71⅛
Gillette	74⅝	74⅝
Glaxo Wellc ADR	31⅝	31½
Goodrich (BF)	44½	44⅛
Goodyear Tire	48⅛	47⅝
Grt Atl Pac Tea	32⅛	32⅝
Great West Fin	28⅞	28⅝
Halliburton	61⅝	60⅝
Harcourt General	51⅛	50⅞
Heinz (HJ)	37⅝	37⅝
Hercules	46⅞	46⅞
Hershey Foods	51½	50⅞
Hewlett Packard	50⅝	49⅝
Hilton Hotels	29⅝	29⅝
Home Depot	53⅝	53⅝
Homestake Mng	15⅝	16⅛
Honeywell	66⅞	65⅞
Household Intl	94⅞	93⅝
Houston Inds	23⅝	23⅝
Humana	19	19⅝
ITT Corp	45⅞	44⅝
Illinois Tool	80⅞	79⅞
Illinova	27⅛	28
INCO	34½	34
Ingersoll Rand	43⅝	43⅝
Inland Steel	19⅝	18⅝
Intel Corp	119	119⅞
IBM	140⅝	136⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	43⅝	43⅛
Intl Paper	42⅞	42⅞
James River Va	30⅞	30⅝
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	51½	50⅝
Kellogg	68⅛	68
Kerr-McGee	65⅞	65
Kimberly-Clark	97⅝	95⅞
Kmart	9⅝	9⅝
Knight-Ridder	39⅝	39⅝
Lilly (Eli)	76⅛	75
Limited Inc	17⅝	17⅝
Lincoln Nat	51½	50⅞
Litton	48	47⅝
Liz Claiborne	42⅞	42⅞
Lockheed Martin	94⅝	93
Louisiana Pac	21⅝	21½
MCI Comm	29⅝	29⅛
Marriott Int	55⅞	55
Marsh & McLnn	110	110
Masco Corp	34⅞	34
May Dept St	46⅞	46⅛
Maytag Corp	19	18⅞
McDonalds	49⅛	48⅛
McDonnell D	56⅝	56⅞
McGraw Hill	46⅞	46⅞
Mead Corp	58⅝	57⅝
Medtronic	68⅛	68⅛
Mellon Bk	65⅝	66
Melville Corp	40⅞	40⅛
Merck Inc	82⅛	81½
Merrill Lynch	79⅝	78⅝
Microsoft	149⅞	149⅝
Minnesota Mine	81⅞	81⅛
Mobil Corp	121⅝	119⅝
Monsanto	40⅞	41
Morgan (JP)	88⅝	87⅝
Motorola Inc	52⅞	54⅝
Natl Semi	23⅝	23
Natl Service Ind	33½	34⅛
Navistar Int	9⅝	9⅞
NY Times A	36⅛	36⅛
Newmont Mng	49⅝	50
Niag Mohawk	8⅛	8½
Nike B	55⅛	54⅛
NL Industries	8⅛	8⅛
Noram Energy	15⅝	15⅞
Nordstrom	41½	41½
Norfolk Sthrn	90⅝	89⅝
Nthn State Pwr	48⅝	48⅞
Norwest Corp	44⅛	43⅞
Nynex Corp	45⅞	45
Occidental Pet	24½	24⅞
Ohio Edison	21½	21⅞
Oracle	48	47⅛
Oryx Energy Co	20⅛	20⅛
Overseas Ship	17	16⅞
Owens Corning	39⅛	39⅝
PHH Corp	46	47
PPG Industries	58⅞	59
PNC Bank	38⅛	37⅞
PP&L Res	24⅞	24⅝
Paccar Inc	59⅝	59⅝
Pacificorp	21⅝	21⅛
Pac Enterprises	30	30⅞
Pac Gas & Elec	24½	24
Pac Telesis	34⅛	34⅛
Pall Corp	27⅛	26⅝
Parker Hannifin	40⅝	40
Peco Energy	26⅞	26⅛
Penney (JC)	51	50⅞
Pennzoil	52⅝	52
Pepsico	32⅝	32⅝
Pfizer	90	90⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	37⅞	37⅛
Phelps Dodge	67⅞	66
Philip Morris	102⅝	102⅛
Phillips Pet	42⅞	42⅝
Pitney Bowes	57⅞	57⅛
Polaroid	41½	40⅝
PriceCostco	21⅝	21⅛
Procter & Gmbl	107⅛	106½
Providian	50⅝	49⅛
Pub Serv E & G	28⅞	27⅝
Quaker Oats	37⅝	37⅛
Ralston Purina	76⅞	76⅝
Raychem Corp	81½	80⅞
Raytheon	50	49⅝
Reebok Intl	38⅝	38⅛
Reynolds Metals	59⅝	58⅝
Rockwell Intl	61⅞	61½
Rohm & Haas	79⅝	80⅛
Royal Dutch	165⅞	165⅛
Rubbermaid	23½	23⅛
SBC Comms	49⅞	48⅞
Safeco Corp	38⅝	38⅝
St Paul's Cos	59⅝	57⅞
Salomon Inc	46½	45⅝
Sara Lee Corp	40⅛	40
Schering Plough	71½	70⅞
Schlumberger	102⅝	101½
Seagram	38⅝	37⅛
Sears Roebuck	48⅞	48½
Shell Trans	99	98⅞
Sherwin Wlms	55	54⅛
Skyline Corp	27⅞	27⅛
Snap-On-Tools	34⅝	34⅞
Southern Co	22⅛	22⅝
Sprint Corp	42½	42⅞
Stanley Works	29⅛	28⅞
Sun Company	23⅝	23⅞
Sun Microsys	59	58⅞
Suntrust	47⅛	47⅛
Supervalu	30⅞	30
Sysco Corp	35	34½
TRW Inc	96	95
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	13⅝	13½
Tandy Corp	40⅞	40⅝
Temple Inland	52⅞	51⅞
Tenneco	50⅞	50
Texaco	97⅝	98⅝
Texas Inst	55⅝	55⅝
Texas Utilities	41⅝	41⅞
Textron	91	90⅝
Time Warner	40⅛	39⅞
Times-Mirror A	49⅛	48⅛
Timken	45⅞	45⅛
Torchmark	50⅝	49⅞
Toys R Us	35⅝	34⅛
Transamerica	79⅝	78⅝
Travelers	61	59⅞
Tribune	86⅞	85⅝
Tyco Int	53⅞	53⅝
UST Inc	32	31½
UAL	51½	51½
US Inds	28⅝	29
US West Comm	30⅞	30⅞
USX Marathon	22⅞	22⅝
Unicom	27⅛	27⅛
Unilever NV	166⅞	165⅝
Union Camp	49⅝	48⅞
Union Carbide	46⅛	46⅝
Union Pacific	57⅞	56½
Unisys Corp	6⅞	6⅛
USAIR Group	20⅝	20⅞
USF&G Corp	19⅝	19⅞
US Life	30	30
United Tech	132⅝	132
Unocal Corp	39⅛	39⅝
VF Corp	68	67⅞
WMX Tech	33⅛	33⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	24⅞	24⅛
Warner-Lambert	72⅝	71½
Wells Fargo	279⅝	274⅞
Westinghouse El	19⅝	19⅛
Weyerhaeuser	46½	45⅞
Whirlpool	47⅞	46
Whitman	23⅞	23⅝
Winn Dixie	34⅝	34
Woolworth	24⅛	24
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58⅝	58⅝
Xerox	48⅝	47⅞
Yellow Corp	16⅛	15⅞

TIRED OF WAITING 32

Nurse's treatment for the Pru's dragging feet

WEEKEND MONEY

DISGRUNTLED 34

The A&L action group attracts a surprising name

THE TIMES PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

HASHIM AKIB

Three years after the pensions review began only 1% of cases have been compensated, **Sara McConnell** reports

Onus of proof is thrown on to victims in £4bn pensions scandal

Hundreds of thousands of victims of pension mis-selling who have, in many cases, already had to wait two years for their files to be reopened will now be pressed to supply extra information or face having the investigation of their cases dropped.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) this week belatedly responded to growing concern over the slow progress of the industry's review of pensions mis-selling with a package of measures intended to speed up the process of finding and compensating victims.

Fewer than 5 per cent of the 520,000 people wrongly advised to transfer out of generous employers' pension schemes into personal pensions have even had their reviews completed, it emerged this week. Only 4,000 people have accepted offers of compensation more than two years after the review started.

Under the terms of the review, insurance companies must compensate investors by getting them reinstated in their company schemes and covering any costs, or by paying them the benefits through their personal pensions that they should have received from their company. Regulators want as many people as possible to be reinstated.

The SIB's solution to speeding up this process is to allow insurers to make offers of compensation based on less information from employers' pension schemes. The regulator slammed the existing 230 question form, drawn up by insurance companies, as "unduly elaborate" and is to replace it with eight questions supplemented by information from scheme booklets and investors themselves.

The regulator denies suggestions from consumer groups that this will lead to investors being short-changed.

Investors who may have been wrongly advised will be asked to fill in further detailed questionnaires about their employment history, salary, and pension arrangements and to supplement their answers with payslips and copies of scheme booklets. This comes on top of any information investors may already have been asked for by insurers to decide whether their case needs to be reviewed.

Under the present system, insurers expect employers' schemes to provide information on salaries and pensions on behalf of their former members. But many schemes have been reluctant to co-operate and have either not responded or insisted on being charged for giving out information.

The SIB says: "We urge investors, once alerted to their inclusion in this review, to co-operate actively and constructively in their firm's review of their own cases. Investors who do not reply at all to repeated requests for information in connection with the review have only themselves to blame if the review is not then pursued".

But firms will be expected to show they have made an effort to contact investors. Certain groups of investors could be further targeted with advertising in the national press and other high-profile moves.

The SIB also makes it clear that investors will be expected to chase their employer to find out whether they will be allowed to be readmitted to the occupational pension scheme to build up future benefits.

Investors should already have been advised by insurers to do this, the SIB says. Insurers will still be responsible for getting victims reinstated in employers' schemes and paying the cost of the benefits they missed out on while in personal pensions.

Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, says: "Investors are being asked to get in earlier in the process and are being asked to take a conscious interest at an earlier stage."

Other regulators say that investors have failed to respond to repeated requests for information in the past. The Investment Managment Regulatory Organisation (Imro), which regulates a number of firms guilty of mis-selling, estimates that up to 50 per cent of people fail to respond to letters.

But unions reacted angrily to the SIB's move. Joanne Segars, pensions officer at the TUC, said: "This is outrageous. We have had people at their wits' end. People have given information twice because the original insurance company has been taken over. People are being ignored. They are doing their part. Now it is up to the industry."

The TUC is also concerned that the SIB has so far refused to commit itself to new deadlines for paying compensation to priority cases, although the SIB admits existing deadlines have "clearly been missed by a mile". The investigation of priority cases — which include those about to retire, men over 50, women over 45, and those who opted out of schemes run by an existing employer — was supposed to be finished by the end of this year. But most are still waiting, with no clear indication of when they will get paid.

Mr Large says that the SIB wanted to wait to see the effects of the new measures before setting new deadlines. He promised constant monitoring of the case clear-up rate.

One priority case who has finally received a compensation offer after 18 months is Christine Garnett. Her husband, Geoffrey had built up seven years' benefits in his pension scheme when he was advised by a salesman at the Royal Liver Friendly Society to transfer his fund into a personal pension.

Just three months later, Mr Garnett died, at the age of 39, leaving his wife with three school-age children. Mrs Garnett found herself widowed at the age of 36 without access to the benefits she would have received if Mr Garnett had left his pension with his employer.

Company pensions normally pay widows' benefits, while such benefits cost extra in personal pension schemes. Mr Garnett had not held the Royal Liver pension long enough to see any growth in the investment. Instead, he would have still been paying upfront setting-up charges that can eat heavily into the investment.

Last month Royal Liver made Mrs Garnett a compensation offer. Under the review deadline her case should have been reviewed by the end of 1995. The company admits there are other urgent cases still waiting to be dealt with.

Royal Liver says Mr Garnett's scheme was slow to respond to information. It also blamed the method of calculating compensation, laid down by regulators, for its complexity. The figures require checking by several qualified actuaries. Royal Liver also argues that software designed to speed up the calculation process has been delivered only recently.

Such delays have led unions to advise their members to circumvent the review process in favour of taking insurers to court. The first of a number of test cases will be heard starting on December 2, when a member of the GMB takes legal action against GAN Life. Attempts by insurers to stay legal action by victims was thwarted at the beginning of this year by a judge in the Bristol Mercantile Court.

Mr Large said this week that the new review procedures would not affect the court hearings. He emphasised that the courts and the ombudsman were open to anyone dissatisfied with the outcome of the review.

Victims at home and abroad, page 32

COUNTDOWN TO THE SCANDAL

19 88 The Government introduces new style personal pensions and at the same time abolishes rules compelling employees to join their company's pension scheme. Previously employees had no other choice but to join their employers' scheme. The move aimed to increase labour mobility.

89-92 Personal pension sales bonanza or insurance companies, banks and independent financial advisers. More than 500,000 people are wrongly advised to come out of their employer's scheme (opt out) and go into a personal pension or transfer pensions from previous jobs.

JULY 92 Regulators belatedly ban salesmen from persuading individuals to opt out of company schemes or transfer deferred benefits from the schemes of former employers. But the damage to thousands of people has been done and the ban does little to curb the most zealous salesmen.

DEC 93 On the 9th SIB admits "it is likely some people may have been wrongly advised to move from their occupational schemes". On the 17th SIB publishes a report confirming everyone's worst fears. More than 90 per cent of salesmen pushing transfers had failed to explain risks or check the present benefits.

OCT 94 SIB announces that those who have retired, men over 50, women over 45 and those who opted out of schemes run by their existing employer would be priorities for compensation. Other priority cases include the dependants of those who had died having transferred out of their company pension schemes.

APRIL 95 The Personal Investment Authority, which is responsible for regulating the majority of offending firms, finally starts telling firms how to conduct reviews of possible mis-selling cases. But the PIA takes three months to provide firms with necessary information to carry out reviews.

JAN 96 Victims supported by unions are turning to the courts to bypass the growing delays in the industry review. The courts throw out pleas from five insurance companies trying to stay legal action by six mis-selling victims. Everyone blames each other for delays in the review.

JUNE 96 The PIA fines 29 firms a total of £16,500 for delays in reviews. A further 15 are fined in August. In November SIB announces a slimmed-down review to speed up compensation. The pressure is now on victims to provide extra information to prove they are entitled to compensation.

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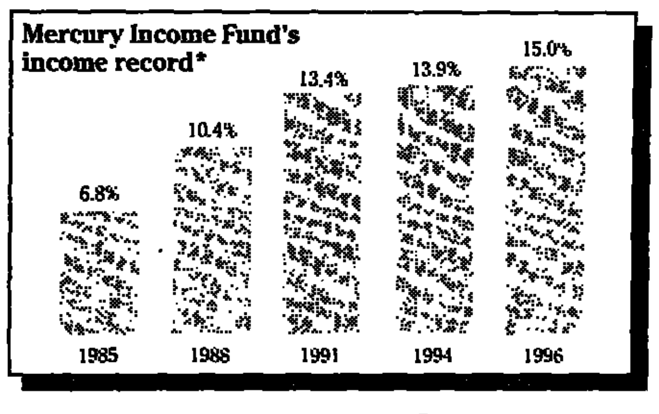

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Sara McConnell looks at victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal both at home and abroad

Grievance nursed for far too long

Tracey Glester has given up waiting for compensation through the industry's pensions review. Like many other nurses, she has followed the advice of her union, the Royal College of Nursing, and turned to the courts for redress for poor advice.

Mrs Glester, left, was persuaded to come out of her generous National Health Service pension scheme and take out a personal pension with the Prudential instead. Her attempts to find out how her claim was progressing met a deafening silence and at one stage her solicitor had to threaten court action to get the Prudential to release information she needed to pursue her claim.

The Royal College of Nursing has been active in trying to get its members to come forward and claim compensation.

This summer it received dozens of inquiries after a story in its union magazine. The union has instructed solicitors Ringrose Wharton to prepare cases on behalf of its members in the courts.

Ringrose Wharton also acts for unions such as GMB and Unison.

DAN SMITH/ALLSPORT

Melbourne Cup day: one of the highlights of outdoor life in Australia enjoyed by many Britons living there in retirement

Beware Australia effect

Fears emerged this week that the effects of the personal pensions scandal will be felt as far afield as Australia. Those who have transferred their company pensions into personal pension plans could face large Australian tax bills.

Under draconian Australian tax rules, Britons who emigrate leaving their pension funds frozen in the United Kingdom have to pay tax of as much as 50 per cent on the growth of these funds, from the time they become Australian residents to the time they retire and start drawing a pension.

However, these rules also bite if the pension is transferred at any time before retirement, giving rise to a tax bill. This means that anyone who moved to Australia, then switched their company pension to a personal pension plan could be affected.

Any move to transfer funds built up in the UK from one UK scheme to another will trigger a similar tax bill unless people take action within six months of moving.

Hundreds of thousands of people were wrongly advised to transfer out of occupational schemes and into personal pensions in this country. Expatriates living in Australia who followed advice to transfer could be liable for tax there and risk losing benefits.

Many expatriate Britons have not realised the potential impact of the tax regime on their retirement prospects. It is feared that few UK-based independent financial advisers and life insurance salesmen are aware that these regulations for overseas pension funds were passed in July 1994 and, unusually, are retrospective, according to Michael Pillemer, national manager at Tower Advisory Services, a subsidiary of Tower Life Australia.

Mr Pillemer says: "A lot of people have emigrated but not transferred their funds. But if you leave your fund in the UK you will be liable for tax in Australia on the growth in the fund as soon as there is a 'taxable event'." Retiring and using the fund to buy an annuity is a taxable event, as is transferring funds from one UK pension scheme to another, he adds.

Britons moving to Australia have six months after becoming Australian residents to transfer their funds before the regime starts to bite.

The rules are harsher for expatriates than for Australian residents with Australian pension funds. The growth in such funds is taxed at 15 per cent. The UK's tax regime for pensions is even more generous. British residents with British pension schemes do not have to pay any tax on the growth of their pension fund.

Emigrant Britons who do transfer their funds to Australia will also benefit from tax breaks on their retirement income. They will pay no tax on income from annuities bought with funds previously transferred to Australia. By contrast, income from annuities paid in the UK to UK residents is mostly taxable.

Tower Life claims to be the first Australian company to have developed a scheme, the Tower Bridge Superannuation Scheme. This allows emigrating Britons to transfer their fund to Australia more easily than they can at present, Tower Life says. Tower Life's introducer in the UK is Montfort International, which has only just received authorisation from the Personal Investment Authority (PIA).

Montfort charges a fee of £325 for processing fund transfers to Australia. But if customers approach Montfort, the firm also receives a commission from Tower of 1.75 per cent of the value of the fund.

Evidence not in mitigation

MARTIN WALLER

Francis Baron and Mark McQuater clocked off work this week, better off by £1.5 million between them. Two obscure businessmen are the latest beneficiaries of the City's own version of the National Lottery. Mr Baron was fired as chief executive of First Choice Holidays, Mr McQuater as managing director of JD Wetherspoon, the pubs group. What both had in common, apart from no further need to worry about their grocery bills for a while, was the payment in full of their contractual entitlements for loss of office.

This is unusual. The sort of contracts signed by such top executives tend to include a fixed notice period of a year or perhaps two. If they are dismissed overnight, the salary for that period must be paid in full as severance pay. Except that in many cases it is not, because of a legal principle known as mitigation.

This requires the party sinned against in law, whose contract has been arbitrarily cancelled, to lessen the damage to the party doing the cancelling. This is reasonable when applied to business relationships; if I contract with you to take goods at a given price, and I refuse to do so, it is not up to you to tip those goods into the Thames and bill me for the full amount. You are expected to find another buyer, at whatever price, and then sue me for the difference.

The way this works in employment law is that the sacked executive and the company doing the sacking sit down to negotiate a fair percentage of the basic sum, on the assumption that the executive can find gainful alternative employment before the formal notice period is up, thereby mitigating the cost to the former employer.

Most of Mr McQuater's windfall came as profits on share options, but he did receive a year's salary, his full entitlement. The suspicion in the City is that Wetherspoon wanted to avoid the appearance of a damaging row, and settled without argument. Mr Baron appears to have been clever enough to have put in his original contract a clause including liquidated damages. This is another legal concept whereby the two parties fix in advance a payment to be made in full if the contract is breached, and no arguing please. A third recent case involved one John Clark, sacked after his company, BET, was taken over by Rentokil. Mr Clark successfully sued for his full three years' contractual entitlement.

I do not like the idea of mitigation, as it applies to employment contracts rather than clashes between big businesses. It seems to me that if your contract stipulates a fixed payoff, then that is what you should get if that contract is breached. The courts, to go on Mr Clark's case, agree with me.

Good thing, too. Lesser mortals are more likely to be on contracts that allow for a certain number of months' pay on severance, along with a sliding amount for every year served. This is a form of loyalty bonus, aimed at rewarding those who may have stayed with the company and ignored job offers from elsewhere once that loyalty is no longer reciprocated by the employer. We would be rightly upset, on our dismissal, to learn that this sum was cut because we could find other work. The law as it applies to the small fry should equally apply to the fat cats.

Huge severance payments tend to arouse an automatic knee-jerk reaction based on envy rather than sweet reason. Aggrieved shareholders in First Choice or Wetherspoon, or in any other company making such large payoffs, have no recourse against the recipients. But they do have the option of challenging, at the next annual meeting, those directors who put the contracts in place. They are the proper target of your wrath. Better still, insist on all the terms and conditions of directors' employment being made easily available. Then you have the opportunity to head off such huge payments before they fall due.

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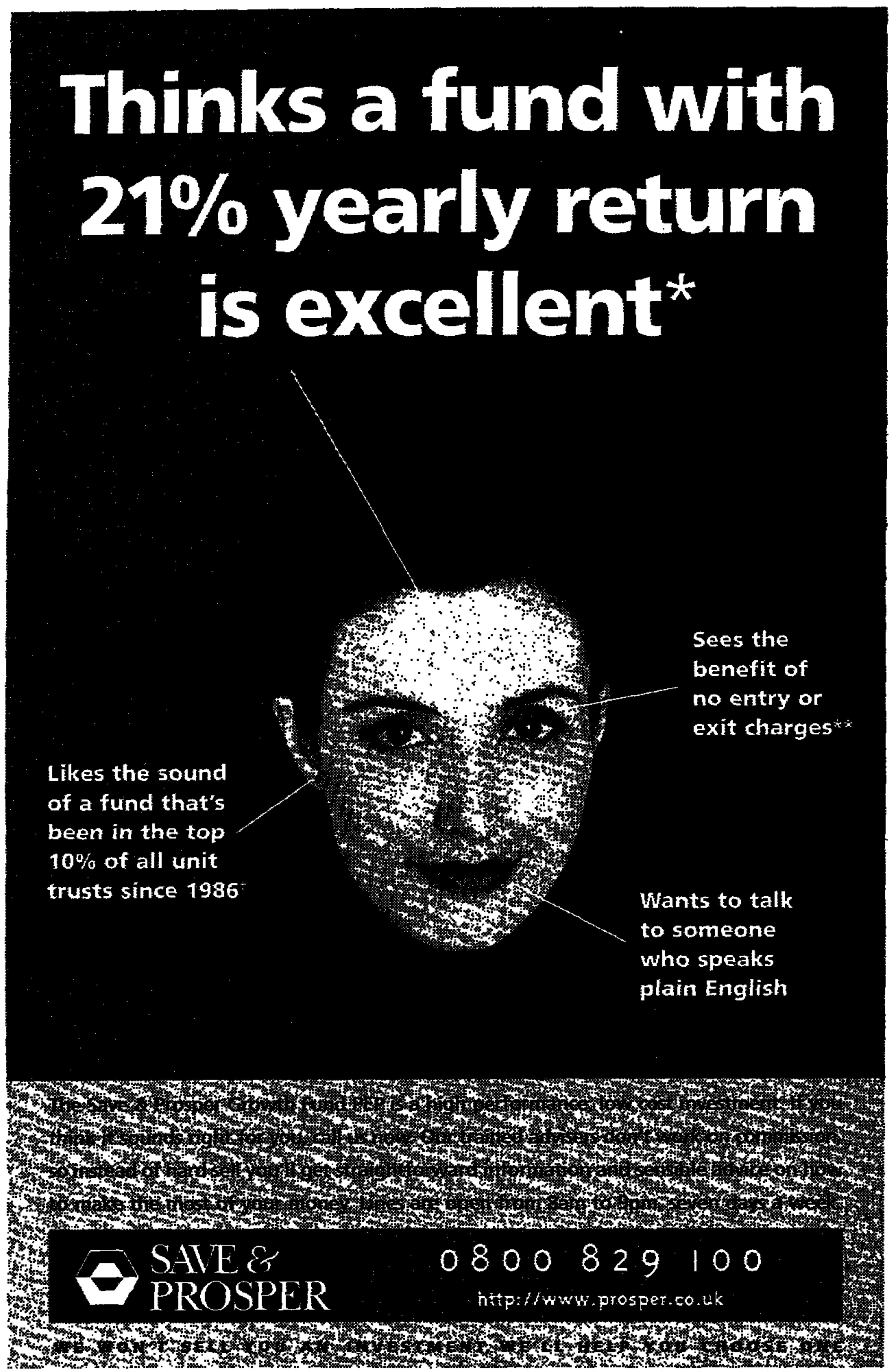
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صحف من الأمس

Contemptible tendency to blame victims

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Few of those involved in the personal pension scandal emerge with any credit. The patience of the victims has been saintly, but the City watchdogs, life insurers and pension scheme trustees have been found wanting.

Although all have been responsible for the delays in the payment of compensation, none has been willing to take the blame. Most distasteful has been the recent tendency to point the finger at the victims themselves.

It is claimed that thousands have yet to be compensated because they have failed to respond to requests for information. But anyone with any knowledge of the pension selling process shows this to be another excuse for inertia. When an insurer arranges a pension, the salesman goes to considerable pains to elicit all the necessary personal data. It should be no more difficult to obtain the same details to establish whether that pension was unsuitable. But whereas the salesman used charm to clinch the sale, there is little of the human approach in the compensation assessment procedure.

Vast numbers of personal pensions were sold largely because the salesman was at hand to fill in the tricky bits on the form, or even the whole document. Now the applicant for compensation faces the form-filling task alone, wondering whether he can expect fair treatment from a company that has previously deceived him.

The new measures announced this week (see page 31) require individuals to provide still more information. This is just one of the many reasons why the package fails to convince.

If Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, the chief watchdog, would like another five-year term in his job, he must act now to rebuke publicly those firms that have been most dilatory in handling their priority cases. If he fails to do so, there will be pressure for a replacement who will put the concerns of the public before those of the financial services industry.

What Ho Rutland!

THE entry of the Duke of Rutland into the Alliance & Leicester share distribution row (see page 34) has given this tale a diverting P. G. Wodehouse flavour. But that does not make it the only story of interest in the building society world.

Merger activity may be at a historical low. But a few societies are quietly considering their future, including the Birmingham Midshires, which last week raised its variable mortgage rate.

Many remarked that this was a curious move for a society committed to mutuality, especially since the soon-to-be-a-bank Halifax has yet to move its variable rate. However, the Birmingham Midshires may, despite its protestations, be contemplating a publicly quoted future after a merger with another society of suitable size.

The Britannia is said to be another society with ambitions beyond mutuality. However, it must stay silent on the subject while John Heaps, its chief executive, serves out his remaining six months as deputy chairman of the Building Societies Association. Make a note of May 1997 in your diary.

The unexpected rise in inflation means that homeowners face higher borrowing costs with many societies opting to raise fixed interest rates

Lenders fix sights higher

Spending is up, inflation is up and unemployment is down, all the figures point to an economy that could be overheating. The 0.25 per cent increase in interest rates announced last month looks unlikely to calm the situation.

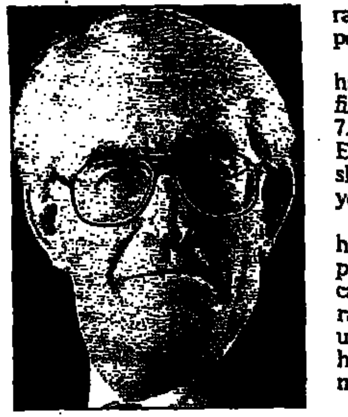
This week, many more building societies withdrew their ranges of fixed-rate loans and replaced them with rates around 0.3 per cent higher.

The most significant move was by the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender, which has 2.5 million borrowers. Its five-year rates now stand at the 8.55 per cent mark, while its three-year rates stand at 7.95 per cent.

In launching the new range of fixed-rate loans, Mike Blackburn, the Halifax chief executive, said: "With the continued recovery in the housing market and the recent bank base rate rise, we are positioning our mortgage rates at a sensible level to avoid overstimulation in the market. This should be the position of any responsible lender."

Other lenders to withdraw or change their fixed rates this week include the Leeds & Holbeck, Woolwich, Royal Bank of Scotland, Market Harborough, Northern Rock, Bristol & West, Cheltenham & Gloucester, and Bradford & Bingley.

The Woolwich, for example, has replaced its 4.99 per cent fix with a 5.99 per cent rate. Its three-year stepped fixed loan, which offered rates of 5.99 per cent, 6.25 per cent, 6.75 per cent, averaging at 6.33 per cent, has been replaced with a fixed rate of 6.89 per cent.



Blackburn: "sensible level"

Royal Bank of Scotland has withdrawn its two-year 6.79 fixed-rate loan. Market Harborough has replaced its 4.75 per cent two-year fix after repricing it to 4.99 per cent. Northern Rock has withdrawn its two-year fixed rate, which was 4.49 per cent, and replaced it with a rate of 4.89 per cent. Its five-year fixed rate was 7.24 per cent and it is now 7.49 per cent. Bristol & West has increased its five-year rates from 7.25 per cent to 7.48 per cent.

Cheltenham & Gloucester has also repriced its five-year fixed rates: they now stand at 7.59 per cent and 8.29 per cent. Even Bradford & Bingley has slightly increased its three-year fix 5 to 6.59 per cent.

Yorkshire Building Society has temporarily abandoned plans to launch a range of capped, discounted and fixed-rate mortgages. It said that the unexpected rise in inflation had caused turbulence in the money markets.

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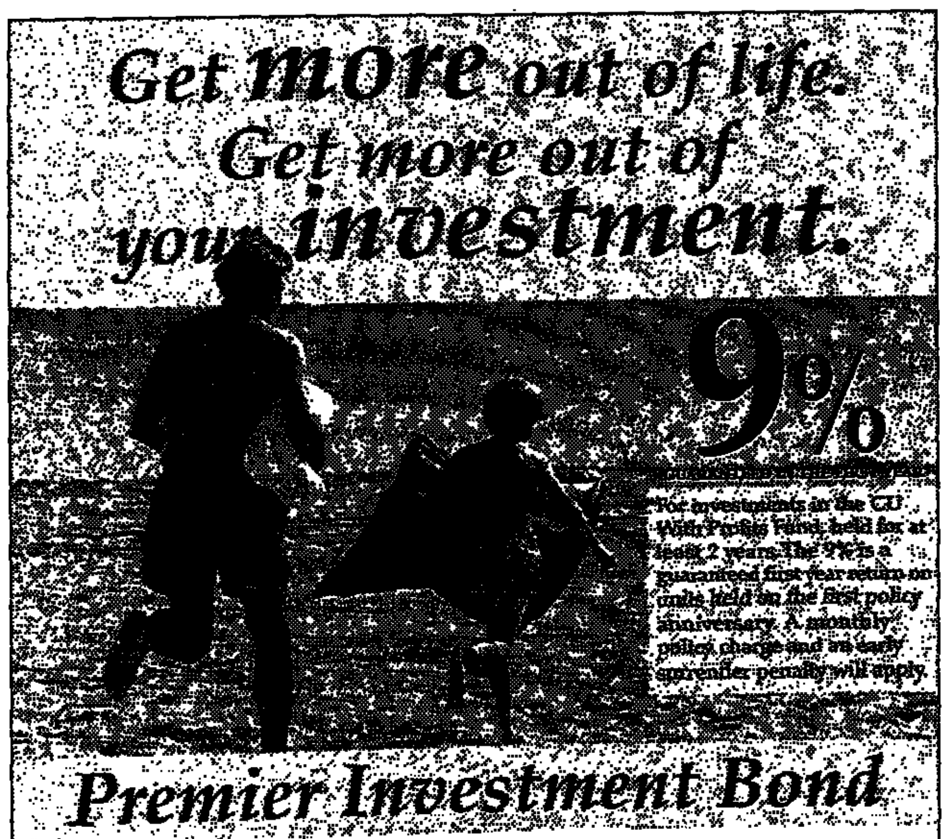
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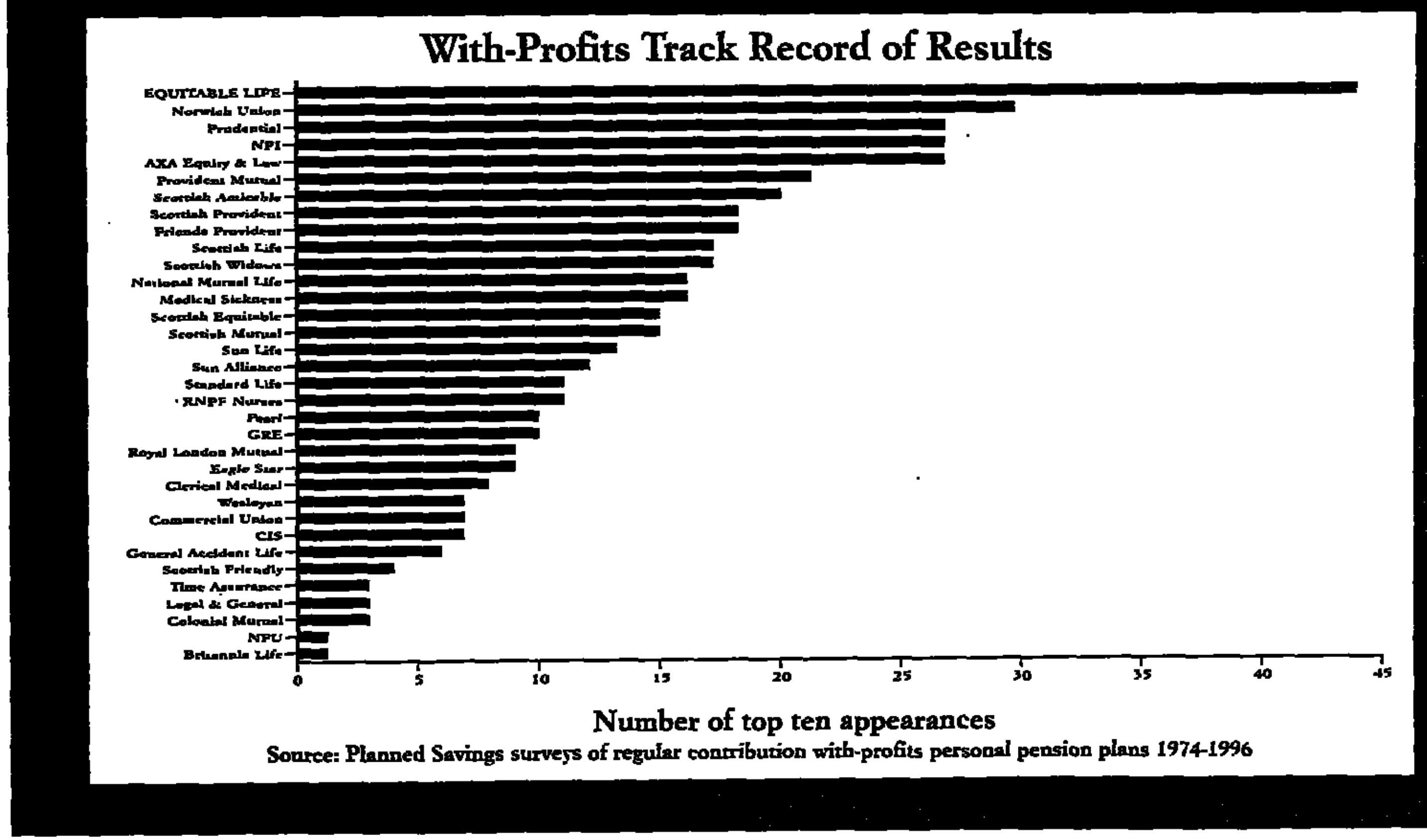

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans 1974-1996

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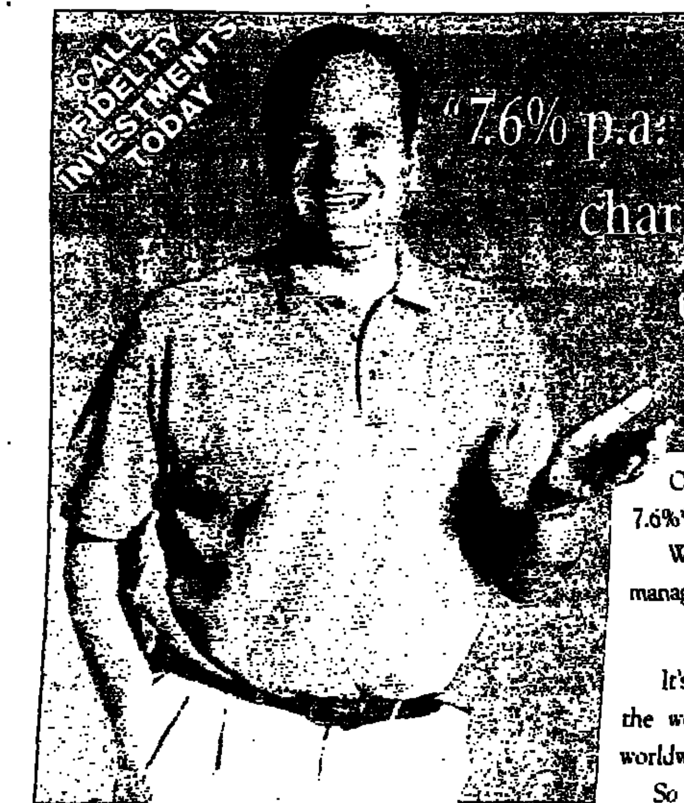

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Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth on bitter A&L investors

Duke in float protest

The Duke of Rutland is among angry investors with the Alliance and Leicester

Protests against the flotation of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society continue to mount, although the society claims already to have gained sufficient votes in favour of its controversial share distribution.

An action group formed by Patrick Mountain, a former agent of the society, is receiving around 100 calls a day in support of its cause. The Duke of Rutland, an aggrieved saver with a substantial balance in the Alliance & Leicester, is among those who have joined the group's ranks in the last few days.

The Building Societies Ombudsman has, meanwhile, received more than 100 complaints over the Alliance & Leicester. Under its terms, those of a basic distribution, each qualifying member, irrespective of the size of his balance, will each receive 250 shares worth around £1,000. Both the Halifax and the Woolwich have opted for variable distribution schemes, giving larger amounts of shares to those with larger balances.

Yesterday, however, the Alliance & Leicester reported that it had received 1.2 million votes, which it considered to be sufficient for victory.

A spokesman explained: "We need a minimum of 20 per cent of our eligible investors to take part in the vote. Of these, 75 per cent must vote in favour. This means that 400,000 investors must vote, with 300,000 saying "yes". We have already received 1.2 million votes. Although we do not know whether these are 'yes' or 'no' votes, research shows that this total will be sufficient to yield an overall 'yes' vote."

The outcome of the Alliance & Leicester vote is likely to influence the structure of the share distribution at the Northern Rock, whose flotation is scheduled for November 1997. City sources believe that the Northern Rock, which shares a merchant bank, JP Morgan, with the Alliance & Leicester, will also opt for a basic distribution.

Adam Applegarth, a Northern Rock director, commented: "We have not yet made a decision as to whether we will go for a basic or a variable distribution. We are in the process of cleaning up our database, tracking back investors' balances to December 1994. We will not be finished until January next year."

Like his fellow action group members, Mr Mountain feels that he was misled by the society into leaving £150,000 invested in expectation of a bigger windfall. To spread his message further, he has set up an Internet Web site for others to register their protest.

Members of the action group have threatened to withdraw more than £50 million from their accounts next month unless the flotation terms are changed. They are also annoyed at the cash bonus proposed for those who joined after the end of last year. For some, this could be a bigger payout than the 250 shares.

The Alliance & Leicester is claiming that it opted for the flat share distribution because most of its savers had balances of under £2,000. The society is refusing to meet the action group to discuss the share distribution scheme. Despite the complaints from the action group, many other Alliance investors are happy with the way the share distribution has been set up. Mark Edmundson, 30, a sales director from Leicester, said: "We are all taking part in the future of the society."

Patrick Mountain can be contacted on 01458 274391.

All in a name, page 37

Widows warns carpetbaggers

Scottish Widows, announcing its link with Royal Bank of Scotland, has given carpetbaggers a stern warning that it is not about to demutualise.

The announcement this week that Widows will take over the management of RBS's life subsidiary and help to boost the pension sales of Direct Line, RBS's direct insurance arm, fuelled speculation that Widows might merge with the bank.

But Mike Ross, SW chief executive, gave warning that taking out policies in the hope of a windfall bonus would be fruitless. "While I am always happy to welcome new customers, they should not bother coming to us expecting a windfall. We are not about to demutualise; that is not what we are about," he said.

However, this is unlikely to deter serious carpetbaggers who believe the deal is a prelude to a merger. Many opportunists took out policies with Norwich Union in the 12 months of speculation before it announced it intended to demutualise and float on the stock market. A large proportion of them will receive windfall bonuses, although the size of the payment will vary according to length of time with the society.

Widows is among a number of mutuals which had been tipped as likely to join the stock market as a wave of mergers, consolidation and demutualisations sweep the life insurance industry. Those the market believes are likely candidates include Standard Life, Friends Provident, Scottish Amicable and NPI.

Widows will design products, administer pensions and manage investments for RBS's subsidiary life company, Royal Scottish Assurance (RSA). The mutual will own at least 20 per cent of RSA and an unspecified stake in Direct Line as part of a joint venture in life insurance. The exact size of each stake will be finalised in the next few weeks.

The news came a day after RBS ended its agreement with Scottish Equitable, now owned by Aegon, the Dutch financial services giant.

Life sales in the UK have started to pick up after two years in the doldrums following the pensions mis-selling scandal. The "co-operation" between Widows and RBS will bolster Direct Line at a time when motor insurance premium rates have been under pressure.

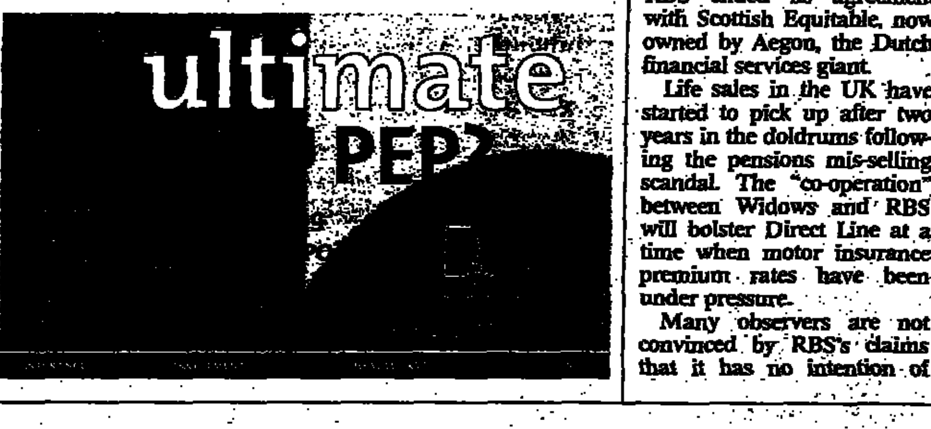
Many observers are not convinced by RBS's claims that it has no intention of brokering a merger with Widows. The mutual has a good reputation and investment track record, and a closer partnership would be extremely beneficial to the bank.

Both sides say there is no change on the horizon. "We are not about to demutualise," Mr Ross said. However, he qualified his statement by adding: "Never say never." The City believes that while the UK stock market continues to grow strongly and mutuals are able to pay reasonable bonuses and stash away capital in their reserves, there will be no pressure on them to consider their future.

But a fall in the market would prompt them to look for outside sources of capital and perhaps a friendly larger parent who could give them financial backing during hard times. Dr George Mathewson, RBS group chief executive, said it was impossible to rule out a merger in the future, but "at present we have no intention of doing that".

He added: "Scottish Widows is a mutual company and its customers have been buying into that whole ethos. I believe there is a risk in breaking that arrangement."

MARIANNE CURPHEY



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TM40

Matthew Wall on takeover targets for predators with an appetite

Plenty left on the bid menu

SECTOR IN FOCUS

FRANCESCO GUIDICINI

Music, food and — sweatshirts: half of Hard Rock Cafe's revenue comes from merchandising labelled products

Capital Radio's £51 million offer for My Kinda Town, the themed restaurant company, shows that predators prowling this fashionable sector still have a prodigious appetite. And there is plenty left on the menu.

Capital, Britain's largest commercial radio group, surprised the City with the move into an unrelated business, despite the proposed opening of its own themed restaurant in London's Leicester Square on Monday. My Kinda Town, whose brands include Beach Blanket Babylon, Henry J Bean's and Chicago Rib Shack, is being valued at 190p for each ordinary share, 100p for each deferred share and 90p for each warrant.

The deal is just the latest in a series of buyouts in a sector expanding faster than a gourmet's waistline. Whitbread, the brewer, paid a £133 million jumbo-sized helping for the Pelican Group's Café Rouge and Dome restaurant chains in July, developed by eaterie whiz-kid Roger Myers. Brightreasons, whose brands include Pizzaland and Bella Pasta, is also rumoured to be on Whitbread's shopping list. In June the Rank Organisation bought out the remaining Hard Rock Cafe shares it did not already own and the rights to the brand for $410 million (£265 million). The move spoke volumes about the company's expectations for the sector. Like Capital, Rank sees great potential in the combination of music and food — half of Hard Rock Cafe's revenue comes from merchandising.

Forecasts from the Henley Centre are that restaurant spending alone will rise from £13.5 billion at the end of 1996 to £20 billion by 2001 at current prices. Total spending on eating out, including take away meals, is set to soar from £21.4 billion to £32 billion. Recent figures from the Family Expenditure Survey, compiled by the Office for National Statistics, confirm this trend. Average annual spending per household on eating out has risen from £350 in 1994-95 to £380 in 1995-96.

The major brewers have been quick to develop large, food-led pubs, such as Bass's Harvester, and Whitbread's Brewer's Fayre. Meanwhile London has seen a rash of trendy themed restaurants including Planet Hollywood and the Fashion Café. Robert Earl's Planet Hollywood company is now developing a new restaurant in the Trocadero centre, Piccadilly, based on a Marvel Comics theme.

David Harrold, chief executive of the Restaurateurs Association, says: "Business is better now than it was even in the booming Eighties. The only question is, how long can it last, given the increasing amount of competition in the industry?"

Ian Garrood, of Christie & Co, the specialist leisure valuer, believes all the independent restaurant companies are takeover targets now. He says: "The big companies, such as Bass and Allied Domecq, will not be able to resist the opportunity to expand rapidly by buying a strong, well-known brand."

Analysts agree that City Centre, whose brands include Garfunkels and Deep Pan Pizza, is a well-run company with good, if unspectacular, growth prospects. Group Chez Gerard, which specialises in unbranded restaurants, is another favourite. And Pizza Express, while expensive thanks in part to heavy investment from the US fund manager Janus Capital, is still tipped as an inevitable takeover target.

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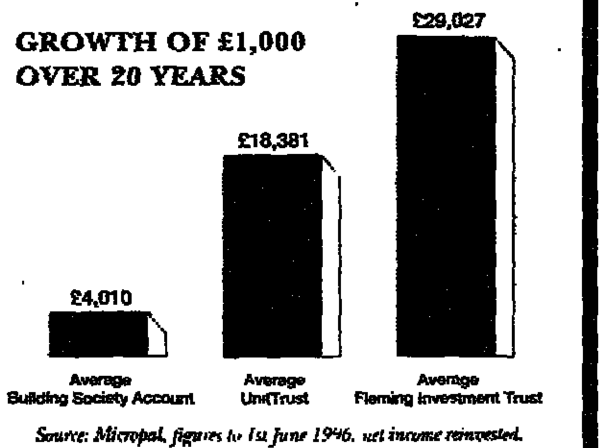

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Sarah Anticoni answers the most common questions posed by unmarried couples

Counting up the costs of living together

Unwedded bliss: showbiz couple Liz Hurley and Hugh Grant

After successive reductions in the value of the married couple's tax allowance, there now seems little to separate the position of those who chose matrimony over cohabitation. However, this is an illusion. The rights of live-in lovers to legacies and pensions and a share of the property remain markedly inferior to those who are married.

Q **Is there such a thing as a common law spouse?**

A No. What people tend to understand by the phrase common law spouse is a cohabitee. That is, one person living with another as part of the same household.

Q **We have been living together for years. Aren't we are as good as married?**

A You may appear to one another and the rest of the world as a married couple, but in the eyes of the law *you are not. The body of law relating to finance and inheritance apply only if you are legally married. Even if you have children, there is still a legal distinction between you and a married couple.*

Q ***I have cooked, washed and cleaned for my cohabitee for years. Am I not entitled to a third/half of the flat we have lived in?***

A By helping out at home, raising children or giving up your job, you do not automatically acquire any share in a property unless you appear on a document evidencing who holds the property. If you have added to the capital value of the flat by paying the capital part of the mortgage for a significant period or for additions that have raised its value, you may have some interest in a *share of the property.*

Q **My girlfriend owns the flat in which we live. I have paid the mortgage since I lived there. *Do I have rights over the property* and own part of it?**

A No, not unless you can show that there was an intention on your and your girlfriend's behalf that you would acquire an interest.

Q **Is there anything we can do before we live together to deal with what will happen if one of us wishes to leave the relationship or one of us dies?**

A Yes, you can make a legally binding agreement (a cohabitation agreement) to spell out your shares, rights and obligations, *including* mortgage repayments, bills and the division of any capital of any property you own or acquire. Ideally, a cohabitation agreement should be signed before you live together. However, it is possible to enter into one when you are living together. If you decide to marry or have children, this is the time to review the document.

Q **What happens if I do not make a will in favour of my cohabitee?**

A The intestacy laws of England and Wales are not as generous in relation to cohabitees as they are to surviving spouses. Recent legislation enables a cohabitee to apply for provision in the event of the deceased cohabitee leaving no will without the need to show dependency prior to death, as long as the two have lived in the same household as husband and wife for at least two years. *This does not assist single-sex couples.*

Q ***How can I make sure my live-in partner is provided for if I die?***

A *There are a number of steps you can take. If the property is presently held as joint tenants, irrespective of any will provision you may make, the property will automatically transfer into* the other joint tenant's name. You can also draw up a will, set up a trust fund or possibly nominate part of your pension or assign a life insurance policy.

Q **My girlfriend and I have been living together for some time and we have wills leaving everything to each other. We have decided to marry. Are our wills still effective?**

A No. Unless the wills are specifically worded to include the possibility that you will become husband and wife, a new will should be drawn up for each of you.

Q **Is it possible for me to leave my pension to my cohabitee?**

A Probably yes, but the *extent to which this is* possible will depend on the pension scheme to which you belong. It may be possible to write in trust for your cohabitee any death-in-service benefit that will be payable in the event that you die while still working. But most pension schemes only have automatic right to the pension for surviving spouses — not cohabitees. If your cohabitee is receiving a pension and dies, it may be poss*ible for* a claim to be made to the trustees of the pension scheme as a dependant.

Q **The house my girlfriend and I live in is held in joint names, but we contributed in unequal proportions to the price. Is there anything I can do now to clarify the proportions in which it is held?**

A Yes. You could enter into a deed of trust evidencing who paid what at the outset, who is making what contributions and what is to happen when you split up or die.

Q **My partner and I bought a property with the help of a mortgage. The property and mortgage are in joint names, but my partner has left. How can I force him to contribute his half share of the mortgage?**

A In short, you cannot *unless you can negotiate with him. In all probability each of you are jointly and* severally liable for the entirety *of the mortgage and the building society/bank is perfectly entitled to chase either of you for the full amount of the mortgage if it so wishes. Naturally, it is easier for them to chase you as they know where you are.*

Q ***If we split up, will we automatically have to sell the house we bought?***

A Not necessarily. It may be possible for one or other of you to buy the other's share. If your partner refuses to sell and you want to, you may have to get a court order. If you want to rehouse yourself, you may have to sell your share of the house to afford the cost of new accommodation. A cohabitation agreement can include a clause whereby you cannot force your partner to sell for a set time to allow the chance for one of you to buy the other out.

Q ***My girlfriend and I*** **have lived together for some time and have two children. If I left her, am I obliged to pay maintenance to her and the children?**

A As cohabitees, neither you nor your girlfriend has any obligation to each other to pay maintenance for one another. However, as the absent *parent of your two* children you could be compelled by the Child Support Agency to pay a weekly sum for their support.

Sarah Anticoni is a partner at Campbell Hooper, solicitors.

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RAY ROBERTS

French connection: placed end to end, the Alliance & Leicester transfer documents being sent to its 3.5 million members would reach Marseilles

When it's all in a name

Anne Ashworth warns borrowers against changing names on an application for a joint mortgage

Those borrowers looking forward to a parcel of free shares from one of the societies headed for the stock market may lose their prize if they change a small detail on their mortgage application form.

Although the rules allow you to repay one mortgage and take out another on the same day and retain your membership of the society, plus your right to vote and your free share entitlement, you will lose all these if you swap the name on a joint mortgage.

A *Weekend Money* reader from London warned other readers to learn by his experience. He said: "We have been Alliance & Leicester borrowers since 1988. In March this year, we arranged a new loan. Previously I had been the first-named on the loan but we decided to put my wife's name first since the loan was based largely on her earnings. The branch questioned this change but did not warn us that we would be kissing goodbye to our free shares, as there was a break in our membership."

Brian Murphy, the Building Societies Ombudsman, takes the view that borrowers choose the order of names on a mortgage application form and that building society members should be aware of the conversion rules. In the past, he has declined to intervene in cases where borrowers had altered the name order.

The Alliance & Leicester has now dispatched transfer documents giving details of its conversion to the 3.5 million members who have done nothing to spoil their chances of a payout. If placed end to end, these 96-page guides would stretch from London to Marseilles.

The transfer document packs sent to members should include voting forms, blue for borrowers and green for investors. Those who are eligible for a payout in both capacities should have received both a blue and a green form. Votes must be received by December 5 unless you intend to vote in person at the special general meeting (SGM) at the London Arena on December 10.

Those who have yet to receive a pack should contact the Alliance & Leicester helpline: 0990 785163.

■ Qualifying Woolwich savers have this week been reminded to have at least £100 in their accounts at midnight on December 31, 1996, or they will lose the right to vote at the society's SGM in February 1997 and their entitlement to free shares.

■ In the latest move in the row over the rights of disabled savers in conversions, the Halifax has denied that its share distribution scheme discriminates against disabled customers. The society said: "Under the present scheme, separate treatment of disabled savers, on a case by case basis, is not possible. Any such individual decision could give rise to a legal challenge to the entire conversion process."

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MAM campaign to woo Kepit shareholders

Mercury Asset Management (MAM) has launched a campaign to capture tens of thousands of former Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust (Kepit) investors who opted for a cash exit after the restructuring of the Kepit trust.

MAM has waived the dealing charges on Mept, its own European privatisation vehicle, until the end of the year in an attempt to woo many of the disaffected Kepit shareholders.

Kepit investors who chose to exchange their shares for cash should start receiving their cheques by the end of this month, and MAM believes many will be looking for a new equity home for their money.

MAM is sending mailshots to 36,000 of them this week, hoping that extra demand for Mept shares will push the price up. It hopes that this will help to narrow the discount between the net asset value of the fund — the total value of all its holdings — and its share price.

Mept's share price has lagged behind its net asset value since the trust's launch two years ago, and is currently standing at a 15 per cent discount. The shares closed yesterday at 105½p, having been offered to the market at 100p. Mept is at pains to dissociate itself from Kepit, which was launched at the same time and whose share price fell below the initial offer price of 100p and never recovered. The shares have been suspended at 97p.

Lough Callahan, who is head of MAM's investment trusts division, points out that Mept has outperformed its benchmark, the MSCI Europe Index, which has risen by 28.1 per cent while Mept's net asset value total return (with net income reinvested) has been 37.7 per cent. This is not reflected in Mept's share price. Mept's managers say that it has a wider investment brief than Kepit and that this will bear fruit as good privatisations come to market.

The no-fees special offer will run until December 31.

Vicky Hastings, who was formerly a Kepit fund manager and is now head of the Mept trust, said that she expected £21 billion worth of European privatisations to be issued next year, with a further £10 billion in 1998.

Privatisations have taken place in the financial, energy and telecoms sectors, while for 1997-98 privatisations are likely to be in utilities and telecoms.

The best-performing recent privatisations have been Railtrack, which has risen more than 34.8 per cent since its launch in May, and British Energy, up 15.2 per cent since July.

In Western Europe the forthcoming expected issues are France Telecom, Elf Aquitaine, the French oil company, ENEL, the Italian electricity and distribution business, and Repsol, the Spanish oil and gas company.

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Fund manager must restore faith in trusts, says **Caroline Merrell**

Investors angry at being left in dark

Investors in Morgan Grenfell's three troubled European unit trusts are clamouring for information from the company about their money.

It is nearly three months since Morgan Grenfell first hit the headlines over the actions of Peter Young, a fund manager who had built a huge portfolio of unquoted stock in three funds worth a total of £1.4 billion.

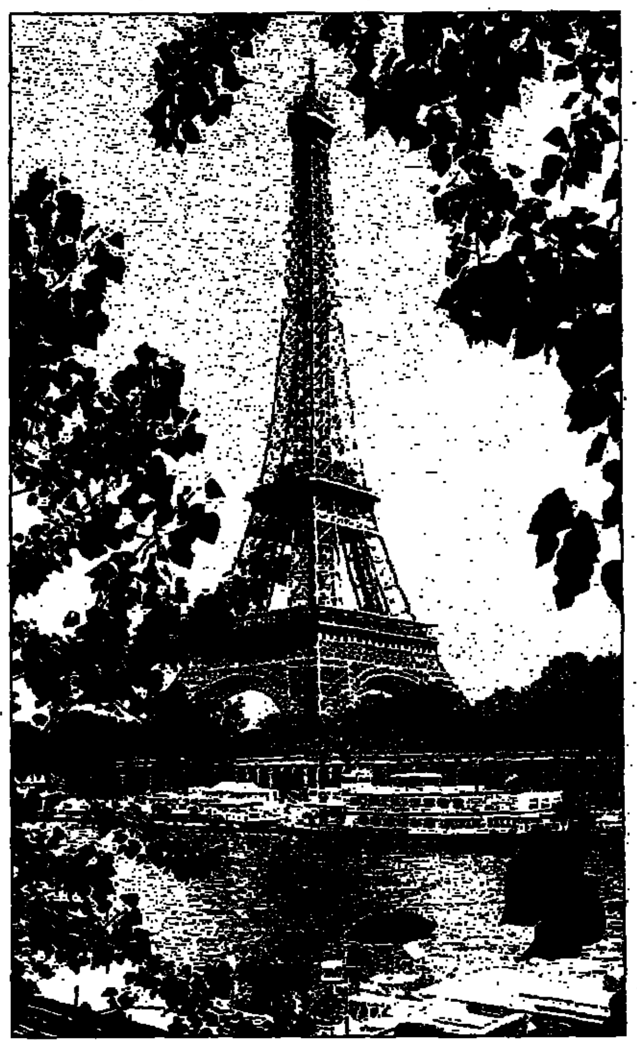
In that time, five senior employees have been dismissed from the company, the Serious Fraud Office has been called in to investigate, Morgan Grenfell's parent company, Deutsche Bank, has stepped in with a cash facility of up to £150 million to shore up the fund and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) has launched its own investigation to try to ascertain who should receive compensation.

It is almost certain that Morgan Grenfell will be fined and disciplined by the regulators over its management of the fund.

The suspension in August of dealings in three of Morgan Grenfell's European unit trusts, which held investments on behalf of 90,000 investors, has dealt a body blow to the industry. The fact that such a respected company had run in to difficulties sent many fund management companies and investors scurrying to look at the details of their own invstments to make sure that they, too, were not exposed to the same problems.

Since then, despite the huge amount of press coverage surrounding the funds, investors have been left almost entirely in the dark about what they should do with their money. Deutsche Bank has simply said that investors will be compensated for any "losses resulting from the irregularities".

Despite the comforting ring of this phrase investors will not know exactly what this will encompass until the Imro investigation, being conducted with the help of Arthur Andersen, is complete. Several are understandably annoyed about the lack of communication by the fund manager.


Investors are demanding action after their foray into Europe

One such investor is Stanley Fryer, from South Wirral, who said: "At the end of April I started a 1996 to 1997 personal equity plan and, impressed by the advertising, put all the money into the Morgan Grenfell European Growth Fund. In a very short time, for the reason now well known to all, my Pep fell substantially in value. I would not contemplate selling because I would have suffered an immediate loss. People who had bought into this trust years before could and did sell and made a substantial profit, even at the reduced bid price.

"We are now told that should it be decided that compensation is payable, investors who have already sold will be compensated on the same basis as those who have retained their holdings." Mr Fryer believes that those who joined later should benefit from extra compensation.

Another investor annoyed by the lack of communication told *The Times* he had received only two letters from Morgan Grenfell about the fund's trouble. He said: "All I have had is a six-monthly statement repeating the information in the letters. The financial advisers I have spoken to give conflicting advice. Some say I should sell my holdings, while others say I should stay with the fund."

Imro said that it anticipated that the investigation in to Morgan Grenfell would be finished before the end of the first quarter next year.

Arthur Andersen is currently going back through the history of the fund to try to analyse the movement of cash and stock to see how much of the loss can be attributed to normal market movements and how much can be attributed to any irregularities.

One thorny question Imro will have to tackle is whether the marketing literature implied that the fund's investment strategy was more low-risk than it actually was. Another is whether the fall in the value of the units caused by the redemptions when the suspension was lifted was because of market forces or "irregularities".

Financial advisers feel that Morgan Grenfell has gone a long way towards dealing with the situation, and they are happy with Peter Young's replacement, Stuart Mitchell.

Graham Hooper, investment director at Chase De Vere, said: "We are telling people in the fund to wait and see. We are not putting any new money in the fund. Morgan Grenfell is a good quality name and it looks as though the problem has been purged."

The fund has continued to fall in value over recent weeks. The strength of sterling against other European currencies has added to the loss.

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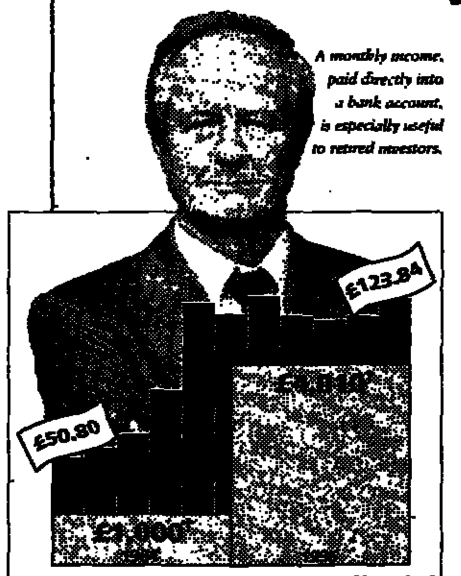

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Sarah Jones examines ways to anticipate higher education costs

Barclays Bank estimates that by the time a student has completed her degree, the costs will be in excess of £17,000

University by degree

As more and more parents see their offspring head off for university, so there is less and less state help with funding. This week the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals finally put in writing what everyone has long advocated, or feared: the student grant should be scrapped.

The Government currently pays towards higher education in two ways: tuition fees paid directly to a university and a maintenance grant which is means-tested, paid directly to the student. The only alternative funding, apart from parental contributions, comes from the Student Loans Company and a bank or building society account, but 41 per cent of students rely on grants.

The maintenance grant is likely to be replaced by larger long-term maintenance loans to be repaid after leaving university, probably through the tax system. The CVCP submission to the Dearing Committee this week would leave the average graduate qualifying after a three-year degree course owing £20,625 at today's prices.

More than half of all parents underestimate the cost of putting their child through university, with 52 per cent believing the cost will be less than £12,000, according to a new survey from Barclays. In fact, higher education can cost up to £17,400. The survey also shows that the vast majority of parents expect their children to go on to higher education and are planning to help them to pay their way. Jain Castiau, Barclays Unicorn's marketing director, says: "Whichever party wins the election it seems that students will be asked to meet more and more of the costs of their education. Any support that parents can provide will be vital — and that means planning ahead and starting to save as soon as possible."

For university education Barclays estimates that parents will have to save £100 a month for at least five years. The bank, of course, suggests its own Barclays Unicorn Tax-free Savings Plan, which is simply a Pep. Contributions — which can be as little as £20 a month — are put in the Barclays Unicorn General Trust, which invests in major UK companies. The initial charge is 5.25 per cent and the annual management charge 1.25 per cent. Unit and investment trusts, Pepped or not, do make sense for funding university education — as long as you start early enough. Investing for ten, or even 15 years, should even out the risk attached to equities and give substantial returns. As an alternative Jason Holland of fund analysts BESt Investment suggests the Gartmore Global Pep for monthly contributions, which has a 3 per cent initial charge and 1.5 per cent annual charge — or for lump sum investment the growth funds from Perpetual and Credit Suisse.

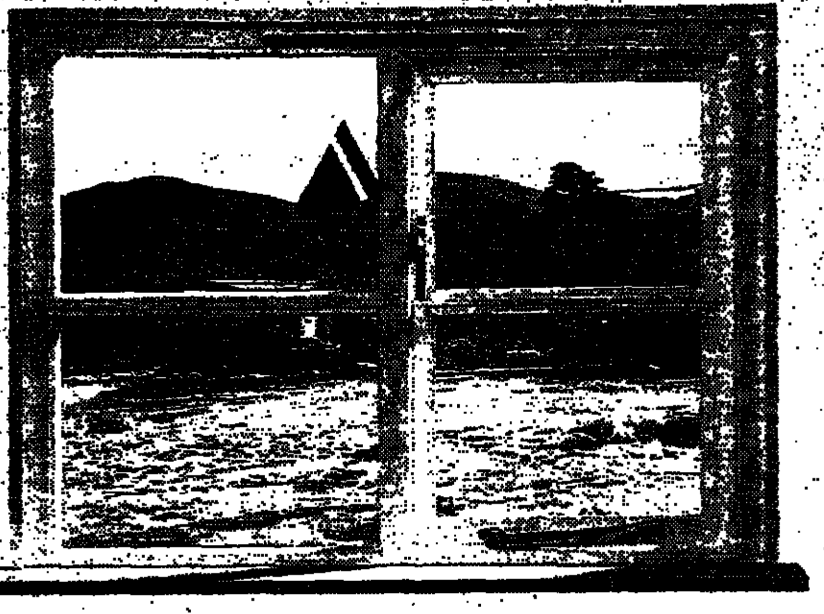
STUDENT FINANCE

Mr Holland also recommends zero dividend preference shares in investment trusts. Zeros pay out a fixed amount on a set redemption date, so parents can plan ahead knowing exactly what they will get from their investment, and when. Gains count as capital gains, not income, so for many parents the proceeds will be tax-free.

Yvonne Rose, of Diane Saunders, an independent financial adviser based in Leeds, believes second-hand endowments are perfect for education funding. A second-hand endowment is a with-profits endowment policy that is sold by the original investor mid-term to an investor who then pays the premiums until maturity.

"You are looking at investing around £4,500 upfront and then £20 a month. For that you get a good rate of return at a lower risk than a Pep," says Ms Rose. "For higher education you must plan in the effect of inflation. You may need £5,000 a year at today's prices but if your child is only eight now, he will need more like £8,000 when he actually gets to university."

Investors can buy several plans that will mature in successive years. For example, Ms Rose has just set up for a client a policy to pay for private school fees in six years' time. It cost £4,370 with monthly premiums of £14.78 (a total £5,986) and has an estimated maturity value of £12,148. A policy to mature in the following year cost £4,357 with premiums of £19.57 (a total £6,333) and has an estimated value of £14,138. However, Ms Rose says that if parents have only a few years before a child reaches university age, they should go for a building society, National Savings or a Tessa.



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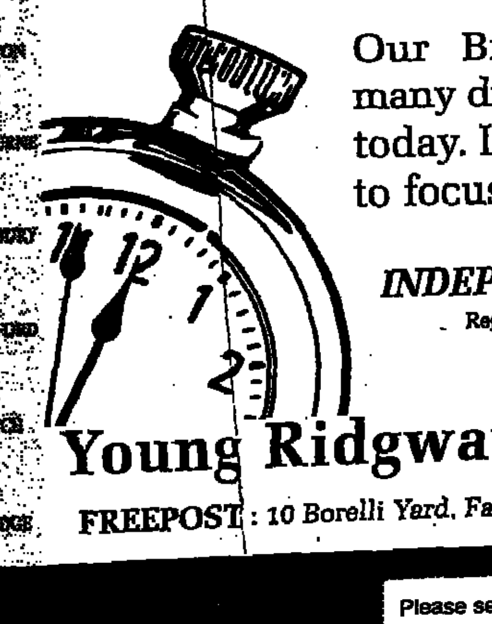

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Flexible loans point way for mortgages

LEGAL & GENERAL has brought out a simple, flexible mortgage that could become the blueprint for home loans in the future – and might do so, if building societies stop behaving like kamikaze pilots in their battle for new business and stand still long enough to watch what the opposition is doing.

The loan is a straightforward, variable-rate mortgage with the rate set at a competitive 6.24%*, and a guarantee that it will never be more than 1.5 points above bank base rate. The loan is set up on an interest-only basis, and any of the usual savings vehicles such as endowments, Peps or pension, may be used to pay it off.

So far, no different, though it is pleasing to see that the loan has absolutely no strings in the shape of requirements to take Legal & General's own insurance policies or Peps, nor any early-redemption penalties. However, what makes the loan different is the flexibility offered over repayments of capital.

Borrowers can pay off lump sums at any time without penalty, or pay extra sums each month at any time (subject to a minimum of £50). An immediate adjustment will be made to the interest owing on the reduced debt. Further, the extra amounts repaid in this way can be placed into an "available reserve" which can then be borrowed back by the homebuyer at any time, for any purpose.

The cost of this later borrowing will be the same as the rest of the mortgage. The only limitation is that the loan must remain at a minimum £30,000, otherwise there would be Miras complications.

Such a scheme has two clear advantages. Many mortgage advisers say that borrowers are still reluctant to take on shorter-term mortgages because they are unsure at the outset how they will be able to manage with the new loan, especially when they have the additional costs of furnishing a new property.

But a year or two later, once things have settled down, they may well realise they could, indeed, afford higher sums, and thus shorten the overall term. Earlier "accelerated repayment" schemes have required a commitment from the borrower from the start, and consequently have not attracted many takers.

The second advantage, while not unique, shows up once again how building societies are behind the times: the fact that interest on small repayments is adjusted immediately rather than at the end of the lender's financial year.

And finally, for those who want to save ahead for some planned future expenditure, making use of the available reserve feature is a very tax-efficient means.

'Article written by Diana Wright.
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*the mortgage rate has been adjusted from 6.59% since first publication.

Good news

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More and more people are realising that flexible mortgages are an excellent way of getting more from a mortgage. We are determined to make sure that our Flexible Reserve mortgage is the very best available of its kind. So, apart from all the good news in the above press cutting, it's worth pointing out that Flexible Reserve also features:

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Please quote ref **FA TM 02.** Lines open 9am-7pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm Saturday and 10am to 2pm Sunday. Flexible Reserve is available for loans up to 95% of the property value. If you qualify for Flexible Reserve, ask for a quotation within the next 10 days and we'll send you a free guide that will help you cut through the mortgage maze. The terms of this offer may be repeated in the future, but cannot be guaranteed.

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All mortgages are subject to underwriting, status and are not available for persons under the age of [illegible]. **A first charge will be taken over your property and a suitable life policy is required for which a premium will be payable.** A written quotation is available on request. For loans in excess of 75% of the purchase price or mortgage valuation (whichever is the lower) a maximum advance fee is payable. Flexible Reserve example: assuming a standard variable rate of 6.24% throughout the term of the mortgage **APR 6.5% (variable)** based on a £70,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years, on a property valued at £100,000. Monthly payment [illegible] net of MIRAS. Total amount payable [illegible] includes 300 monthly mortgage payments (endowment payments not included). Example excludes any redemption penalties payable to a previous lender and assumes that no stamp duty is payable. For the purpose of this example it is assumed legal fees and other related expenses will be [illegible] and MIRAS is available at 15% on the full £30,000 entitlement. Assignable life cover and acceptable buildings insurance will be required but premiums are not included in the APR calculation. Example assumes that no Flexible Reserve Payments have been made and that no borrowing from the Available Reserve has occurred during the mortgage term. Flexible Reserve facility not available for mortgage balances below [illegible]. [illegible] Maximum loan 95% of mortgage valuation for a purchase, 95% for a remortgage at the same level and up to 90% if raising additional capital. Maximum loan £250,000. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO, for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Mortgages are provided by Legal & General Mortgage Services Ltd. of Fairmount House, Bull Hill, Leatherhead KT22 7AT. Legal & General Assurance Society Ltd. Registered in England No. [illegible]. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London [illegible]

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Of course, there are many other ships in the Indian Ocean, some carrying 300 to 800 passengers which offer typical resort-style cruising and restrict their itineraries to the larger islands. However, for those who wish to see the islands in some depth, the Caledonian Star is the only sensible choice.

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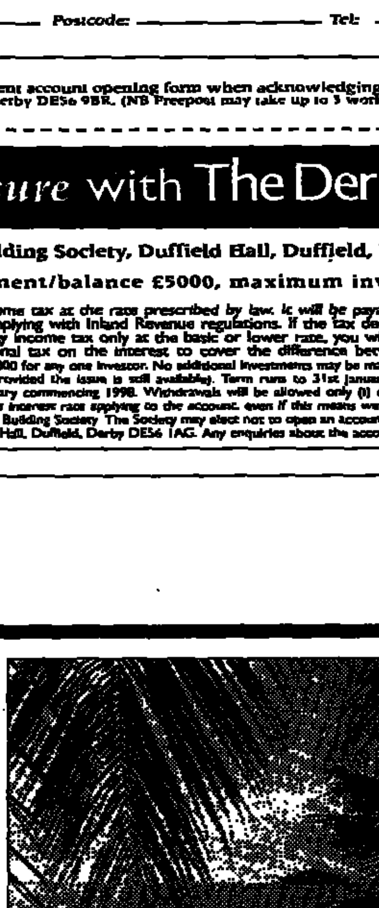

THE MS CALEDONIAN STAR

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AN INDIAN OCEAN ODYSSEY ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN STAR
FROM COLOMBO TO THE ISLANDS OF THE SEYCHELLES BY WAY OF THE MALDIVE ISLANDS
25 February - 12 March 1997

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Gatwick)-Colombo with British Airways.

DAY 2 Colombo On arrival drive to the MS Caledonian Star. Embark and sail in the evening.

DAY 3 At sea

DAY 4 Male, Maldives Our first call in the Maldives will be at the capital of Male. Here there will be a morning walking tour visiting the Great Mosque, museum and market. Sail during lunch to the lovely resort island of Bandos for an afternoon of leisure.

DAY 5 Maldives Today we will explore the Maldive Archipelago, using our Zodiac craft to land on tiny atolls and for those who wish to swim and snorkel over the reefs.

DAYS 6,7 & 8 At sea

DAY 9 Praslin We will reach the Seychelles in the afternoon. Our first landfall will be Praslin where we will moor overnight.

DAY 10 Praslin-La Digue Morning visit to Praslin's famous Vallee de Mai, the exotic rain forest nature reserve which is home to the bizzarly shaped coco de mer and the rare black parrot. Sail during lunch to nearby La Digue, thought by many to be the most beautiful of all the Seychelles islands. Explore on foot, bicycle or oxcart. See the stunning beaches with the giant granite outcrops. Moor overnight.

DAY 11 Cousin Morning visit to the Special Nature Reserve of Cousin, an island totally encircled by a reef. This is a wonderful place to see many of the Seychelles rarest birds, also the endangered hawksbill turtle and the giant Aldabran tortoise. Sail during lunch to Anse Lazio, a spectacular beach on the north western tip of Praslin. Here you can enjoy the excellent swimming or snorkelling or join an organised walk along the fascinating network of footpaths through the forests and along the headlands. Moor overnight.

DAY 12 Grand Souer Morning visit to the tiny island of Grand Souer, followed by an afternoon on Curieuse. Join an island walk, look out for the giant tortoises reintroduced from Aldabra, see the ruins of an old leper colony and enjoy the splendid beaches.

DAY 13 Aride-Bird Island Formerly a plantation island, Aride is now a nature reserve and home to over a million sea birds. Sail during lunch to Bird Island, a tiny mile long island famous for a huge population of sooty terns. The energetic may circumnavigate the island of foot.

DAY 14 Mahe Arrive at the Seychelles capital in the morning and disembark. After an island tour we will drive to the luxurious Plantation Club Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.

DAY 15 Mahe-London Day at leisure until evening departure with Air Seychelles to London.

DAY 16 London (Gatwick) Morning arrival.

PRICES PER PERSON

Category C	2 berth	£2495
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Single	Main deck	£3295
Single	Upper deck	£3595

Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change.

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 13 nights aboard the Caledonian Star on full board, shore excursions, entrance fees, 1 night in Mahe on breakfast only basis, port taxes, UK departure tax, Expedition Staff, Guest Lecturers.

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Would you share your appreciation?

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Shrewd legal advice is a must, as Cary Grant and Myrna Loy found in *Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House*

Mortgage for life at 0 per cent and a stash of cash today? It sounds too good to be true — and it is, unless you live in a valuable house and are desperate for income.

This week the Bank of Scotland launched its Shared Appreciation Mortgage, providing a nil or low interest rate fixed throughout the life of the mortgage and freeing up a proportion of the property's value as a lump sum. In return, you share with the lender any future increase in the value of your property.

There are two versions, available from the end of the month through independent financial advisers; either a 0 per cent or 5.75 per cent interest rate. With the latter, the maximum loan to value is 75 per cent and the shared appreciation is in equal proportion to the percentage loan to value. So if you borrowed 65 per cent of the property value, you would give away 65 per cent of any future appreciation. With the 0 per cent option, the maximum loan to value is 25 per cent and the shared appreciation is three times the loan to value. So if you borrowed 20 per cent of the value, you would share 60 per cent of any appreciation.

When your home is sold or the mortgage repaid, you retain the original equity in the property, minus the original loan. If the property value falls, there will simply be no appreciation to share out. Ironically for a mortgage aimed at borrowers without ready cash, there is a hefty arrangement fee of £500, a termination charge of £300 and the cost of the sale valuation to establish the level of appreciation.

While the mortgage rate is low or non-existent, the real cost comes in the appreciation you will give up. You could lose more through forfeiting the appreciation than you save through the mortgage rate.

"They have got the timing of this mortgage right, with most analysts predicting large rises in the property market," says Patrick Bunton of London & Country, mortgage brokers. "If property prices don't go anywhere, the owner wins; and if prices rise, the lender wins."

The Bank of Scotland claims that borrowers can use the cash freed by the mortgage to fund pension, healthcare or long-term care contributions, to invest in a Pep, pay for education fees or a second home. But Mr Bunton says it is too complicated and expensive for most homeowners.

"This mortgage is for those struggling for income now and not worried about the future value of their property. In any other situation, the only winner is the lender," says Mr Bunton. "The 5.75 per cent option is for those who still have some income to service mortgage payments. The 0 per cent is for those with no income at all, but the lender's stake in future equity is massive."

After the disasters of the 80s, equity release schemes are gaining more respectability. With a home income plan, you remortgage part of your house, usually up to £30,000. The lump sum is used to buy an annuity from the lender which guarantees an income for life. Only part of the income is taxed. Interest on the loan is taken out of your income, while the loan itself is repaid when your house is sold.

Alternatively, with home reversion plans, you sell part or all of your home for an annuity or lump sum. The minimum sale is usually 40 per cent of the property, and the minimum property value £40,000. With no mortgage interest to pay, the income is higher; but because you have sold rather than mortgaged, you or your heirs will not gain from any profit on the sale of your house. To qualify you generally have to be at least 70 years old. Legal and financial advice is essential.

The amount generated by the plans can be disappointing — a £30,000 loan on a home income plan yields about £100 a month — but can make life a little more comfortable for older people. In a recent survey of planholders, most were satisfied, but there were concerns about the effect of inflation on their annuities, reduction of property value and the amount of equity left to bequeath.

Is there an alternative way to generate income? "The ultimate equity release scheme is to move to a smaller house or to rent out a room in your current house," says Mark Bollard of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial adviser. "If that doesn't appeal, as a last resort you will have to look at a home income plan. You need to be clear that releasing, say, £25,000 from your property would really help you, and to understand the effect it will have on the value of your property."

A free leaflet on home income plans is available from Hinton & Wild, 374-378 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7BB.

SARAH JONES

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صحفنا من الأمس

Caroline Merrell looks at the prospects for ethical investors

Right environment for green funds

Rien ne va plus: ethical trusts rule out any investments involved with gambling, alcohol, nuclear power or defence

The election of a Labour government could give ethical and green funds something of a boost. Labour is more committed to policies that will help to clean up the environment.

It is also known to favour the adoption of various European Union directives which will produce better working conditions, greater pollution control and better preservation of the environment.

Ethical and green investment has already begun to catch the imagination of the investing public. The biggest ethical unit trust, the Friends Provident Stewardship fund, has increased in size by £150 million over the past year, to reach £700 million.

This increase can be attributed to the investment performance of the fund, but some is new money flowing into the trust. Ethical and green trusts are two distinct areas of investment.

Ethical trusts will invest in companies which fulfil certain ethical criteria, while green funds will invest in companies that positively help the environment.

Frank Blighe, market development manager of the Stewardship fund, the oldest and most established fund, said: "The outlook for ethical funds looks good. Labour's attitude towards the minimum wage and the social chapter could all add to their appeal."

Some of the best performing trusts include the Scottish Equitable Ethical Unit Trust, the Friends Provident Stewardship fund, the NPI Global Income Fund and the Acorn Ethical Fund, all of which have shown increases of about 20 per cent over the past year. The Stewardship Fund has lists of positive and negative criteria which it uses to select the shares for its fund. Those criteria it considers to be positive include companies that supply the necessities of life, those that give a high quality service and benefit to the community, as well as companies that help the environment. Negative criteria include those companies which harm the environment, invest in oppressive regimes, exploit the Third World, or are involved with alcohol, nuclear power, gambling or defence. For example, the fund will not invest in British Telecom, despite its record on environmental issues, because BT has a large number of defence contracts. Mr Blighe said: "We invest in companies which comprise 40 per cent of the All-share. Fifty or 60 companies are invested in, they are reviewed by the investment committee on an ongoing basis.

"We also invest in 100 or so companies in Europe," he added. A recent survey by Friends Provident found that 44 per cent of investors in the Stewardship unit trust were female, and the majority, 94 per cent, put profit before ethics.

Another of the most well-known green fund managers is Jupiter. It was one of the pioneers of green investment. The selection criteria for companies in the green sector is much tougher than that in the ethical sector. The Jupiter Ecology Fund, which falls in the international equity growth sector, has risen 16 per cent over the past year and by 40 per cent over the past three years.

Charles Miller, Jupiter analyst, said: "We have a list of companies to invest in, which are selected on a series of selection criteria. We do not accept companies that earn more than 10 per cent of their income from such things as alcohol or tobacco. We will invest in companies offering recycling facilities or those that actively clean up the environment."

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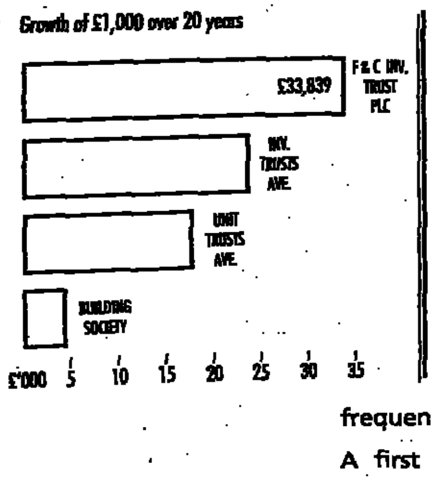
*Plus statutory 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty on purchase.

The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to the future. All figures sourced Micropal, 20 yrs 31.8.76-30.8.96, 5 yrs 30.8.91-30.8.96. Investment trust figures basis: mid-market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 3.5% notional expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission on purchase and sales, + 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty on purchase). Unit trust figures basis: offer to bid, net income reinvested. Building Society figures basis: highest net rate available (UK Savings £25,000+ rate) total return, net income reinvested. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment trusts.



1% DISCOUNT on lump sum PEP investments

THE GT INCOME FUND.

TOP FIVE OVER

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 YEARS

AND SINCE LAUNCH.*

If you are looking for strong, consistent investment performance in a PEP, you'll find the track record of the GT Income Fund hard to beat. Our competitors certainly do. Here are some highlights

£1,000 invested at launch (23 years ago) would have provided:

◆ A growing income. In 1996 alone you would have received a yield of 36.6% on your original investment.#

◆ Capital growth. In addition to the income received every year, the Fund has provided strong capital growth.

◆ Exceptional total returns. If you had decided to reinvest the income every year, your investment would be worth £32,500 today.#

Returns on £1,000 invested over:*

	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	10yrs
GT Income Fund	£1,163	£1,436	£2,332	£3,797
Sector Average	£1,065	£1,196	£1,662	£2,850
Ranking	2/88	2/79	2/76	5/58

The GT Income Fund is managed by GT Global. Established over 25 years ago, GT Global is a worldwide group managing over £10bn on behalf of over 1 million customers.

For more information contact your IFA, call GT Global on 0800 212 274 or return the coupon.

CALL 0800 212 274

To: Client Services Dept, GT Global, Alban Gate, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS

Name
Address
TM16/11/96 Postcode

GT Global
A Member of Liechtenstein Global Trust
IT'S YOUR WORLD. INVEST IN IT.SM

*Source: Micropal, offer-to-bid, net income reinvested. UK Equity Income Sector. #Source: Micropal, net income. All figures to 1.11.96. 1% discount only applies to lump sum PEP investments until 1.5.97. Past performance is no guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. PEP legislation can change at any time and the value of tax concessions will depend on individual circumstances. The GT PEP is managed by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. The GT Income Fund was launched in September 1973 and is managed by GT Global Fund Management Ltd (part of the LGT Group) which is regulated by IMRO and is a member of AUTIF. Issued by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Top 50 hints for flush investors

If you are looking to invest a lump sum of more than £10,000, a new guide from The David Aaron Partnership offers some suggestions. *The Top 50 Investments for Income and Growth* gives advice on how to spread investments in the current market conditions whether you are a conservative, realistic or speculative investor. It covers the best National Savings products, Tessas, with-profits bonds, distribution bonds, Peps and unit trusts, showing advantages and disadvantages of each. The guide is £2 (inc p+p) and is available until December 15 from The David Aaron Partnership, Shelton House, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SD.

■ Under new legislation, state pensions will be minimal thus making personal pension contributions essential, according to *The Equitable Guide to Saving for Your Retirement*. The guide provides clear information on all aspects of pensions, and savings plans for every income bracket are suggested. Whether you are self-employed, changing jobs, living abroad or thinking of retiring early, the best pension options are given. Published by Bloomsbury on November 21 at £10.99.

■ *Statements of Practice*, from the Inland Revenue, explains the department's interpretation of legislation and the way it applies the law in practice. The booklet includes statements applicable to individuals and companies, statements relating to tax on capital gains and relating to inheritance tax. The full text of *Statements* issued before and after July 18, 1978, is given, suitably updated where necessary. Available from tax inquiry centres.

■ If you are searching for the ultimate children's Christmas present that will not break, does not require batteries and will be worth more in five years' time than it is today, Children's Bonus Bonds may be the answer. The bonds offer a tax-free and guaranteed return and you can invest from £25 to £1,000 for each of your children in the current issue. On the bondholder's 21st birthday, a final bonus is added. Call 0645 645000 for more information. For current rates, see the National Savings table on this page.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at November 14, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.85
	10,000	AIG Life	5.25
	20,000	AIG Life	5.45
	50,000	AIG Life	5.55
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.95
	10,000	AIG Life	5.70
	20,000	AIG Life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.15
	10,000	AIG Life	5.70
	20,000	AIG Life	5.80
	50,000	AIG Life	5.85
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.35
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.00
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.10

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80	½Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 226858	Instnt Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20 day	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	Yly
Cheltenham & Glos 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£100	5.50	Yly
National Counties 01372 747771	Direct 90	90 day	£20,000	6.30	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fxd Rate Bond	31.03.98	£5,000	6.60	F/OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed rate	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	Infltn Beater	5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	6.80	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.917%C	11.50%	Nil
RB of Scotland 01702 349393	Visa/WorldwideM	0.935%N	12.90%N	£10

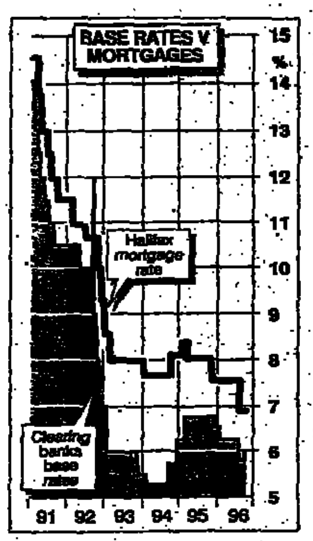
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

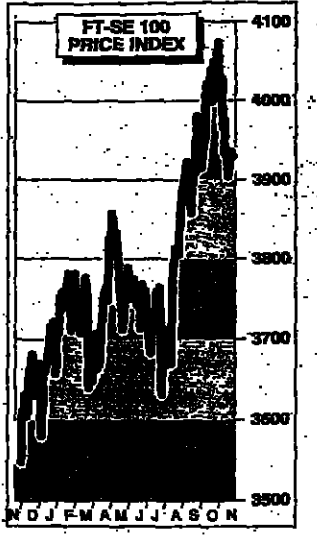
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£112.66	£102.59
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	13.90%E	£112.86	£101.33
Alliance & Leic Grp 0116 2626262	14.80%	£114.93	£102.36

Nb. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 577)





	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**⁷	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Certf	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds ³ †Tax free *Rates gross and vble Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£180,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but pd in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates **Tiered rates apply.

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Lf	Level	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381
Standard Lf	Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416
Canada Lf	Level	£9,938	£11,012	£12,478
Generali	Level	£9,954	£10,987	£12,334
Stalwart *	Level	£9,686	£10,710	£11,823

SINGLE LIFE		Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	Level	£9,244	£10,045	£11,223
Equitable Lf	Level	£9,850	£10,027	£10,975
Prudential	Level	£9,204	£9,956	£11,055
Generali	Level	£9,061	£9,911	£11,088
Norwich Un	Level	£9,129	£9,982	£10,989

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)		Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Equitable Lf	Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276
Stalwart*	Level	£8,540	£9,226	£10,001
Canada Life	Level	£8,823	£9,434	£10,306
Prudential	Level	£8,772	£9,363	£10,193
Generali	Level	£8,672	£9,362	£10,222

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9888)

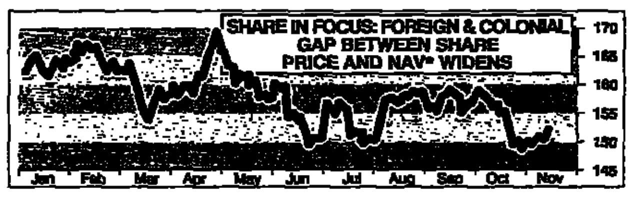
Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	101.20	9.255	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	123.44	9.418	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	138.89	9.360	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	142.75	9.369	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	138.65	9.377	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	130.94	9.234	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	122.46	9.595	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	96.76	9.043	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	129.88	8.987	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	149.14	9.136	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	144.67	9.245	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	118.28	9.073	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	136.70	9.235	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	138.86	9.092	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	138.87	9.271	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	107.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750%	101.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0181 742 0471	1.39	£200-300k	75	Disc of 5.6% until 1.10.97
Nationwide 01793 513513	2.59	to £500k	75	3.90% discount for 1 year
Bristol & West 0800 608088	1.95	£15k+	90	Fixed at 1.95% to 31.7.97
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mth 3% for 6 months
Midland 0800 494999	3.74	£100k+	80	3% discount for 12 months

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.05	to £250k	70	Rate fixed for 12 months.
Chorley & District 01257 279373	0.50	£60-120k	80	6% discount for 6 months
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.39	£75-125k	90	6.35% disc-6mth 2%-6mth, 1%-1yr
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Midland 0800 494999	3.89	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 608088	1.95	£15k+	95	5.04% disc 6 mnth then 1% disc-6mth
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% disc for 12 months.
Newbury 01635 43676	4.24	£5-100k	95	2.50% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.25	£5k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months.

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

Mortgage of the week

"£1000 Cashback - this Christmas, next Christmas and the Christmas after"

- £300 towards legal costs
- No arrangement fee

For full details of this Building Society funded mortgage, call our independent mortgage helpline

0800-246-000

MORTGAGE

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	524.60	555.20	+2.00	...
UK Equity	697.30	737.90	+4.50	...
Property	411.00	435.00	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	365.80	387.10	-1.20	...
Money	269.10	284.80	+0.20	...
International	415.40	439.60	-0.10	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	195.40	206.70	+0.50	...
Ethical S4	160.90	169.40	+0.70	...
International S4	218.30	229.80	+0.80	...
Protected Gth S4	123.70	130.30	...	0
Asian Pacific	203.70	214.50	+2.60	...
European S4	213.10	224.40	+1.80	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	395.00	415.80	+0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	268.50	282.70	+0.10	...
Man Ser 4	774.90	815.70	+1.00	...
Conv Ser 4	353.40	372.00	-0.30	...
Money Ser 4	353.00	371.60	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	394.30	415.10	+2.20	...
American Ser 4	661.80	696.20	+3.90	...
High Inc Ser 4	811.70	854.50	+4.00	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	230.80	243	+0.70	...
Japan Ser 4	320.40	337.30	-2.80	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1948.50	2051.00	+11.40	...
European Fd Acc	473.20	498.10	+1.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	568.80	598.70	+3.40	...
Gtd Money Acc	359.90	378.80	+0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	726.30	764.40	-3.10	...
Intl Fxd Int Acc	370.60	390.00	+0.70	...
Japan Fund	242.90	255.70	-1.00	...
N American Acc	421.10	443.20	-0.70	...
Prop Fd Acc	474.30	499.20	+0.60	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1224.20	1288.60	+5.10	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	403.30	424.60	+0.30	...
Equity Acc	1706.90	1796.80	-9.30	...
Property Acc	644.30	678.30	+0.50	...
Far East Acc	327.30	344.60	-0.70	...
Managed Capital	614.30	646.70	+2.90	...
-do- Acc	1302.50	1371.10	+6.30	...
Overseas Acc	1163.70	1225.00	+3.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	550.10	579.10	+3.60	...
Amer Equity Acc	1093.70	1151.30	+9.40	...
Amer Man Acc	458.30	482.50	+3.70	...
Amer Prop Acc	116.80	123.00	+0.10	...
Distribution Bonds	25.10	26.50	+0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	177.60	186.90	+0.20	...
Balncd Ser 6	843.30	887.60	+3.30	...
Opportunity Ser 6	293.20	308.30	+0.60	...
Distribution Ser 6	104.10	109.50	+0.60	6.94
UK Equities Ser 6	£12.25	£12.89	-11.40	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	£12.43	£13.08	-10.70	...
North Amer Ser 6	600.00	631.50	+0.70	...
Far East Ser 6	568.80	598.70	+0.50	...
Europe Ser 6	474.10	499.00	+1.30	...
Intnl Ser 6	668.80	703.40	+1.50	...
Property Ser 6	601.90	633.50	+1.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	494.80	520.80	+0.40	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	200.90	211.40	+1.10	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	321.10	337.90	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1050.50	1105.80	+5.40	...
-do- Initial	648.80	683.00	+3.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	438.40	461.50	+3.10	...
-do- Initial	273.20	287.60	+1.90	...
International Acc	459.20	483.40	-1.40	...
-do- Initial	284.30	299.30	+0.90	...
Managed Acc	625.10	658.00	+2.90	...
-do- Initial	388.30	408.80	+1.80	...
Money Acc	313.60	330.20	+0.20	...
Property Acc	315.90	132.60	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	195.00	205.30	...	...
America Acc	372.20	391.80	+1.10	...
Far East Gwth	255.60	269.10	+2.60	...
Financial Acc	458.90	483.10	+3.30	...
500 Accum	530.60	558.60	-0.30	...
Japan Acc	267.20	281.30	-2.90	...
Income Acc	622.50	655.30	+2.40	...
Leisure Acc	330.40	347.80	+2.80	...
Special Sits Acc	320.90	337.80	+2.40	...
Unit Tech Acc	185.10	194.90	+0.50	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	947.72	947.72	+3.50	...
Income Fund	893.94	940.99	+2.69	...
Extra Income	807.38	849.88	+3.26	...
Worldwide Gth	549.63	578.56	+5.59	...
Balanced Fund	808.83	851.40	+3.29	...
Smllr Cos Recov	£10.53	£11.09	+3.52	...
N Amer & Genrl	462.36	486.70	+0.15	...
Pacific Basin	430.98	453.67	+1.44	...
German Growth	259.30	272.95	+2.27	...
Japan Growth	167.76	176.59	-0.38	...
The UK Gth Fd	262.17	275.97	+1.04	...
Contl Euro Gth	165.16	173.86	+1.83	...
Property Fund	421.15	443.32	+0.35	...
Fixed Interest	364.60	383.79	+2.25	...
Cash Fund	304.88	320.93	+0.22	...
Managed Inv	566.17	595.97	+2.12	...
Nth Amer Recov	315.93	332.56	-3.55	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	540.56	569.02	-0.23	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	192.20	202.40	-0.10	...
Performance Plus	223.90	236.90	+0.60	...
With Profit Perf	187.30	198.20	-0.10	...
UK Opportunity	243.80	257.90	-0.10	...
Euro Opportunity	268.10	283.70	+0.50	...
North Amer Opp	234.60	248.20	-0.50	...
Far East Opp	204.10	215.90	-0.20	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	173.30	182.50	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	208.30	220.30	...	...
Fixed Int	226.70	239.80	-0.10	...
Cash	170.50	180.30	+0.10	6.49
Overseas	258.00	273.00	+0.60	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	405.20	426.60	+2.60	...
UK Equity	741.70	780.80	+4.30	...
Property	287.60	302.80	+0.20	...
Money Market	270.20	284.50	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	332.10	349.60	+2.80	...
Japan	331.40	348.90	+5.90	...
North America	212.50	223.70	+7.50	...
International	400.20	421.30	+2.60	...
European	351.80	370.40	+10.00	...
Far East	156.70	165.00	+6.00	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	282.80	...	...	...
Managed	392.60	413.30	+1.20	...
Property	259.70	273.40	+0.50	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	270.60	284.90	+1.60	...
Equity	461.50	486.30	+1.80	...
Cash	230.50	242.70	-0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	454.10	478.10	-0.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	393.30	414.10	-0.20	...
Managed Fund	846.40	890.90	+2.50	...
Property Fund	554.60	583.80	+0.60	...
Equity Fund	1131.90	1191.50	+4.10	...
Gilt Edged Fd	690.40	726.70	+4.30	...
Deposit Fund	356.90	375.70	...	...
Investment Fd	503.10	528.30	+1.90	...
International	619.20	651.80	+0.80	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	169.60	178.60	...	...
Managed Fund	739.90	778.90	+2.30	...
Equity Fund	438.10	461.20	+1.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	338.40	356.30	+1.20	...
Ruby	201.00	211.60	...	...
Emerald	159.10	167.50	+0.40	...
Equity	398.90	419.90	+2.20	...
Property	239.70	252.40	+0.60	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	229.20	241.30	+0.80	...
Indexed Secs	184.70	194.50	+0.70	...
Cash	202.30	213.00	+0.10	...
Nth American	294.50	310.00	+1.70	...
Far East	331.40	348.90	-1.60	...
International	274.70	289.20	+0.40	...
Special Sits	446.00	469.50	-0.30	...
Intl Income	353.90	372.20	+2.90	...
European	400.40	421.50	+4.60	...
Japanese	127.80	134.60	-2.10	...
SE Asia	407.20	428.70	+0.70	...
With Profits Reg	185.80	195.60	-0.20	...
-do- Spec	185.80	195.60	-0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	396.10	417.00	+2.20	...
Equity	494.00	520.10	+3.80	...
Property	223.10	234.90	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	296.70	312.40	+1.30	...
Index Linked	198.20	208.70	-0.90	...
Cash	277.20	291.80	+0.20	...
Nth American	365.70	385.00	+1.50	...
Far East Acc	319.00	335.80	-1.10	...
International Acc	346.30	364.60	+1.30	...
Special Sits	669.90	705.20	...	...
European Flex	579.00	609.50	+4.40	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key ‡	239.58	...	-4.18	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	363.83	...	-6.63	...
-do- Cash	217.01	228.43	+0.14	...
-do- Equity	648.63	682.77	+1.97	...
-do- Fxd Int	403.62	424.86	+2.07	...
-do- Managed	464.46	488.91	+1.52	...
-do- Property	336.19	353.88	+2.08	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	214.80	226.12	+0.06	...
-do- Cash Inv	336.67	354.40	+0.34	...
-do- Equity Cap	£17.01	£17.90	+9.77	...
-do- Equity Inv	£26.66	£28.06	+17.18	...
-do- Fixed Cap	435.63	458.56	+2.70	...
-do- Fixed Inv	682.77	718.71	+4.72	...
-do- Index Cap	212.15	223.33	+1.26	...
-do- Index Inv	332.52	350.03	+2.21	...
-do- Mngd Cap	676.45	712.06	+3.73	...
-do- Mngd Inv	£10.60	£11.16	+6.59	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	906.36	...	+0.76	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	107.60	...	+0.13	...
Prime: Managed	472.80	497.70	+1.80	...
Prime: UK Equity	600.20	631.80	+3.00	...
Prime: Int Equity	332.60	350.20	+1.30	...
Prime: Property	251.20	264.50	+0.10	...
Prime: Fxd Int	260.90	274.30	+0.40	...
Prime Index-Lnk	185.60	195.60	+0.70	...
Prime: Cash	220.80	232.50	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1283.40	1350.90	...	0
Equity II	1907.50	2337.80	...	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) ‡	109.50	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	106.00	...	-0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	114.00	...	-0.70	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	113.70	...	+0.70	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	105.70	...	+0.20	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	107.10	...	+0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	280.90	295.70	+1.70	...
Managed S1	280.60	295.40	+1.70	...
Adventurous S1	222.30	234.10	+0.20	...
Managed (2)	188.10	198.10	+1.20	...
Pension Funds				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	199.50	209.90	+0.60	...
-do- Pens	254.10	267.40	+1.00	...
UK Equity	211.70	222.80	+0.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
2nd Euro Acc	182.50	192.10	+1.30	...
2nd Japan Acc	170.70	179.70	-1.70	...
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	172.30	181.30	-0.40	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	148.30	156.10	+1.20	...
LONDON LIFE				

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	350.20	369.50	-0.10	...
Fxd Interest Acc	270.50	285.40	-0.80	...
International Acc	272.50	287.50	-0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	216.20	227.20		
Deposit	210.70	221.90	+0.20	
Managed	342.00	360.10	+1.50	...
Worldwide	135.10	145.40	+0.10	
Pen Worldwide	147.00	154.80	+0.10	

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Society rules also discriminate against trustees

From Mr Peter Slattery

Sir, In your article (Societies Shamed, November 9) you state that building societies deny that they are discriminating against disabled people. You quote Alliance & Leicester as saying that the first named member rule excludes other groups including children, and that trustees, carers or other first named members have a duty to pass on any bonuses to the disabled member.

I agree that that is indeed the case: members of the society who hold accounts in a fiduciary capacity (be they a trustee, carer, or whatever) are bound to pass any bonus, or free shares, on to the beneficial owners of the accounts.

But discrimination remains: if a member holds more than one account in a fiduciary capacity, each beneficiary will receive only a proportion of the bonus or shares, depending on the number of accounts so held.

What is more, since trustees must prefer the interests of their beneficiaries to their own, trustees themselves (and others holding in a fiduciary capacity) are also discriminated against, since if they reserve any benefit for themselves they are in breach of trust.

Your correspondent, Mrs Wilson (Trusteees must pursue rejection of claims for shares for their charges, Weekend Money Letters, November 9) is wrong: it is she herself who is disadvantaged. She will receive the free shares as trustee for her son, not for herself.

In conclusion, though, I suggest societies cannot wash their hands of the situation so smugly, since the manner in which joint and/or fiduciary accounts are designated is largely determined by their own administrative practices, not by the account holders themselves, and these practices often accord poorly with the principles of trust law.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SLATTERY,
6 Wonford Heath Drive,
Tadworth,
Surrey.

From Mrs Krzysia Gossage

Sir, Patrick Mountain, a member of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society, objects to the cash bonus being available to those who joined the society after December 31, 1995, or who had less than £100 in their accounts on October 14 (Free-shares row deepens, Weekend Money, November 9).

In fact, the Alliance & Leicester, in common with the Halifax and the Woolwich, is actually proposing to reward people who have no financial interest in the society whatsoever, namely many of the first-named people who handle the money of severely disabled account holders.

This cannot be in the interest of members and there can be no clearer evidence that the conversion rules of the societies are seriously flawed.

Yours faithfully,
KRZYSIA GOSSAGE,
Little Brays,
Kingston Stert,
Chinnor,
Oxfordshire.

From Mrs E. Usherwood

Sir, As trustee for four children I, and they, are being discriminated against in a similar way to the disabled mentioned in previous letters (First-named are enablers, not owners of society accounts for the disabled, Weekend Money Letters, November 2).

As an executor, I chose to place money inherited by the said minors in the Halifax because I did not have an account with that society. According to their rules my name had to appear first, then that of the other trustee, and finally that of the minor.

Now, as a result of the Halifax/Leeds merger, I have a Halifax account.

Each of the five accounts has a sufficiently high balance to qualify for the maximum share allocation, but I am informed by the society that only one allocation will be made, because my name appears first on all five of the accounts.

This is obviously unjust, and I have appealed for help to the Building Society Commission, the Office of Fair Trading and the Building Societies Association, but all say the matter does not come within their remit.

I feel that some way round this iniquitous situation must be found if hundreds of loyal savers are not to be deprived of what is rightly theirs.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH USHERWOOD,
24 St. Mary's Grove,
Canonbury,
N1.

Most pensioners want to pass on savings to their heirs

Double iniquity of provider taking remaining annuity funds on death

From Mr. C.G. Wyman

Sir, The recently revealed practices of the personal pensions industry have prompted in me another concern. I am approaching the age when I need to decide how to use my personal pension fund, which I have saved over many years. I expect my fund has already been plundered by the arcane procedures of the pensions industry, if the various articles I have read are to be believed.

The Government, under both Conservative and Labour administrations, has encouraged me to save for my retirement by offering generous tax advantages. I am grateful to the Government for these, although it should gain by my being less of a burden to the State.

Now that I am at the point of using my savings, I find that I am forced by government rules to buy an annuity with most of the money. The rate of return from an annuity is little better than I can get from retirement bonds.

The main difference is that when I die the capital invested in a retirement bond would return to my surviving family whereas with an annuity the capital is kept by the institutional provider.

It is hardly fair that nearly all my pension savings will eventually be compulsorily relinquished to the very institutions which gain by siphoning money from those attempting to save for retirement.

Yours faithfully,
C.G. WYMAN,
The Green,
Blakesley, Towcester,
Northamptonshire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082 and should include a daytime telephone number. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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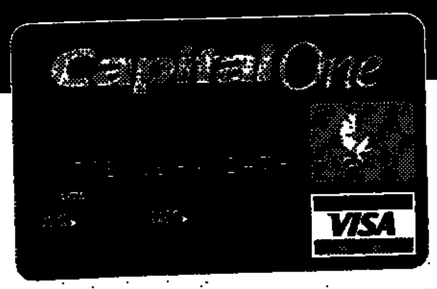

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Abbey National Investment (90 Day Notice)	3.00%	3.00%	3.20%	3.20%	3.85%	3.85%	4.35%	4.35%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	2.75%	2.75%	3.05%	3.05%	3.80%	3.80%	4.30%	4.30%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.10%	3.10%	3.85%	3.85%	4.60%	4.60%

Source: Moneyfacts 20th October 1996

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grolund Amer	226.60	241.90†	+ 1.80	0.14
Grolund Equity	281.80	299.60	+ 1.40	1.82
Grolund Euro	267.90	283.50	- 2.00	0.57
Grolund Expt Bq	131.50	136.30		2.58
Grolund Gilt	78.02	78.54	+ 0.16	6.18
Grolund Japan	153.70	162.60†	- 2.00	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	672.90	715.90	+ 4.50	2.48
General Inc	561.70	597.60	+ 3.80	2.48
UK Growth Acc	462.50	492.10†	+ 3.30	2.65
UK Growth Inc	299.30	318.58†	+ 2.10	2.65
Higher Inc Acc	813.20	865.20†	+ 5.90	4.07
Higher Inc Inc	433.30	460.99†	+ 3.10	4.07
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	212.80	224.80	+ 0.20	5.41
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.18	98.43	+ 0.10	5.41
Nth America	365.50	388.99†	+ 0.60	
Europe	358.70	381.60	+ 1.20	0.48
Brit Excell	91.32	97.15†	+ 0.70	2.80
Brit Fndmtls Acc	116.70	124.20	+ 0.90	4.56
Brit Fndmtls Inc	78.07	83.06	+ 0.58	4.58
Global Opps	100.40	106.98†	+ 0.37	
Balanced Acc	63.32	67.37†	+ 0.26	2.56
Balanced Inc	59.06	62.84†	+ 0.23	2.56
Japan Acc	41.79	44.46†	- 0.34	..
Pac Basin Acc	391.70	416.80†	+ 2.60	0.85
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Inc	132.70	140.80	+ 0.80	6.93
High Inc Equity	183.30	195.90†	+ 1.20	4.40
Worldwide Bond	273.60	290.10†	- 0.10	5.07
American Growth	394.60	411.10	+ 3.30	0.37
Asian Pacific	319.40	341.60	+ 4.90	0.08
Assets & Earnings	302.60	323.60†	- 0.80	2.86
Euro Capital Acc	186.70	199.70	- 2.10	0.79
Extra Inc	43.06	45.81†	+ 0.15	7.83
General	280.00	297.90	- 1.00	2.84
Global Opps	68.42	72.79	+ 0.33	0.55
Japan	106.20	113.60	- 1.20	..
Managed Inc	47.98	51.04†	+ 0.21	4.70
Mastertrust	166.50	178.10	+ 0.50	1.03
US Emerging Cos	205.30	218.40	- 0.10	..
Ethical	81.92	87.15	+ 0.49	2.49
International	134.50	143.10	+ 0.80	0.36
Dividend & Growth	68.55	72.93	+ 0.52	4.21
Global Gwth & Sec	73.76	78.77	+ 0.05	2.36
Latin America	63.37	67.42	+ 0.33	..
Capital Reserve	146.10	146.10	+ 0.10	4.79
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2364.00	2455.00	- 9.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	61.44	63.74†	- 0.01	0.15
Emerging Mkts	69.62	72.51	+ 0.17	0.05
European	150.90	157.00	+ 1.10	
Exempt	1079.00	1136.00†	- 3.00	1.64
Extra Income #	46.77	49.22	+ 0.29	6.61
Far East Emg Eco	126.20	132.40	- 0.18	0.47
Fixed Interest #	25.24	26.25†	+ 0.15	9.85
Fund Inv Tst	153.20	160.70†	- 0.20	9.55
Japan	163.90	169.70	- 1.00	..
Latin American	57.30	59.63	- 0.66	0.82
Pacific	82.15	86.25	+ 0.05	0.30
Property Share	73.05	76.69	+ 1.06	2.29
UK Emerging Cos	69.61	75.24	- 0.17	1.28
UK Growth	54.41	56.66†	+ 0.56	2.07
Aber World Port #	82.28	83.81	+ 0.52	3.45
Ethical	77.25	80.34	+ 0.39	2.20
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.67	50.72	+ 0.09	7.31
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5088				
Restit Property #	99.20	105.80	- 0.10	5.31

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	102.05	108.78	+ 0.32	1.85
American Portfolio	124.64	132.30	- 0.17	1.01
European Portfolio	136.43	145.85†	+ 1.56	0.63
High Income	51.83	52.06†	+ 0.34	7.55
Japanese Portfolio	63.02	66.79	- 0.28	..
Pacific Portfolio	155.70	167.42	+ 0.71	1.08
UK Equity	97.11	103.74†	+ 0.53	3.45
UK Equity & Bd	57.83	61.06	+ 0.37	6.28
UK Smlr Cos	51.63	55.22	+ 0.35	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	769.27	780.69	+ 2.41	4.29
Fxd Int Sec	157.27	157.91	+ 0.78	9.06
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	760.53	772.03	+ 0.90	4.38
Investment Acc	1536.06	1536.59	+ 4.03	...
Fixed Int Inc	126.85	127.35	- 0.03	9.11
Fixed Int Acc	231.04	231.96	- 0.05	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.90	94.86†	+ 0.44	3.96
Beck Bio-Tech	41.39	45.01	- 0.09	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	187.49	196.89	+ 0.90	0.49
City Fin Assets	79.42	83.40†	- 1.03	2.31
City Fin Intl	88.63	93.29†	- 0.11	0.46
Friars Hse Cap	314.38	334.45	- 2.86	2.52
Buckley Wrld Grth	135.80	143.65	- 1.67	..
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	56.67	59.51	+ 0.82	3.22
Shaw Utilities	57.93	59.28†	+ 1.17	6.14
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	52.87	56.10	- 0.03	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	88.34	95.47	+ 0.12	..
Dragon Growth	71.75	78.73	+ 0.97	0.35
Equity High Inc	89.74	96.08	+ 0.71	4.22
-do- Accum	129.88	139.07	+ 1.03	4.22
Extra Income Inc	26.60	28.03	+ 0.18	7.47
Extra Income Acc	29.27	30.84	+ 0.19	7.47
European Gwth	63.35	67.21	+ 0.43	0.69
Evergreen	31.48	33.65	+ 0.15	0.01
General Equity	104.95	111.35	+ 0.74	2.90
Japan Growth	44.51	47.35	- 0.51	..
Pedigree Gwth	64.42	69.02	+ 0.53	2.37
Pref Stn Cos Inc	37.69	40.53†	- 0.05	1.40
-do- Accum	40.18	43.20	- 0.06	1.40
Retirement Inc #	27.37	28.54	+ 0.16	6.05
Special Sits	46.41	49.90	+ 0.25	2.38
UK & Overseas	60.10	63.77	+ 0.58	0.55
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	70.03	72.94	+ 0.58	4.14
Capital	83.59	87.07	+ 0.44	2.63
High Income	51.74	53.89†	+ 0.44	6.74
Top 50	56.41	58.76	+ 0.42	2.60
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	194.53	202.64†	+ 0.99	4.53
Long Gilt	43.72	45.53†	+ 0.36	6.09
Monthly Inc Plus	50.18	52.27	+ 0.30	8.57
Preference Share	47.27	49.24†	+ 0.25	7.92
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	141.87	147.78†	+ 0.75	5.77
Managed Fund	76.34	79.52†	+ 0.31	2.73
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	53.71	55.95	+ 0.18	1.70
-do- Accum	63.48	66.13	+ 0.20	1.70

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	80.69	86.04	- 0.62	..
-do- Accum	80.80	86.84	- 0.62	..
Amer Smlr Cos	656.10	701.70	- 7.00	
-do- Accum	670.20	718.80	- 7.20	...
Capital Tst	402.70	428.40	+ 2.70	1.50
-do- Accum	591.80	629.40	+ 3.90	1.50
Cont Smlr Cos	59.49	63.31	- 0.06	1.09
-do- Accum	63.29	67.36	- 0.07	1.09
Convertible	142.70	151.80	- 1.80	5.10
-do- Accum	309.00	328.70	- 3.90	5.10
Emerging Markets	63.25	67.58	+ 0.34	0.30
-do- Accum	63.47	67.81	+ 0.34	0.30
European	150.30	159.20	+ 0.80	0.50
-do- Accum	159.20	168.70	+ 0.90	0.50
Extra Income	396.10	421.40	+ 7.10	4.45
-do- Accum	630.80	671.10	+11.60	4.45
Financial	178.30	187.60†	+ 0.30	0.46
-do- Accum	187.30	199.30†	+ 0.30	0.46
Gilt Trust	62.36	65.36†	+ 0.08	6.79
-do- Accum	96.56	101.60†	+ 0.10	6.79
Health Fund Inc	240.70	257.20†	- 3.60	.
-do- Accum	240.70	257.20†	- 3.60	.
Income & Growth	233.50	248.40	+ 2.50	3.61
-do- Accum	369.90	393.50	+ 4.00	3.61
Intl Growth	426.40	454.10†	+ 1.30	
-do- Accum	473.50	504.20†	+ 1.40	
Japan & Gen	158.20	168.10	- 0.90	..
-do- Accum	157.80	167.70	- 1.00	..
Monthly Inc #	200.40	213.20†	+ 1.50	4.38
-do- Accum #	201.10	213.90†	+ 1.50	4.38
Managed Port Inc	121.40	127.80	+ 0.30	1.40
-do- Accum	132.00	138.90	+ 0.30	1.40
Quarterly Income #	57.14	61.32†	- 0.09	5.28
-do- Accum #	66.23	71.07†	+ 0.53	5.28
Recovery	337.30	360.70	- 2.20	.
-do- Accum	398.20	425.90	- 2.60	.
UK Growth	67.80	72.13	+ 0.10	2.76
-do- Accum	73.51	78.20	+ 0.08	2.76
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	61.85	65.93†	+ 0.14	0.07
FP Am Smlr Cos	200.70	214.60†	+ 1.90	..
FP Asian Growth	279.10	297.70	+ 7.90	..
FP Australian	410.50	437.80	+ 3.40	..
FP Equity Dist	455.20	485.58†	+ 2.90	2.50
-do- Accum	£10.16	£10.83	+ 6.80	2.50
FP Euro Gth	289.00	308.20	+ 2.70	..
-do- Accum	316.00	337.10	+ 3.00	..
FP Intl Bond	58.09	61.47	- 0.17	4.06
FP Intl Gth Dist	37.81	40.11†	+ 0.18	0.08
-do- Accum	55.34	58.92	+ 0.27	0.08
FP Pac Basin Acc	212.10	226.20†	+ 0.80	.
FP Income #	58.92	62.84	+ 0.16	4.90
-do- Accum #	205.80	219.50	+ 0.60	4.90
FP Jap Smlr Cos	272.10	290.20	- 1.80	..
FP Monthly Dist #	75.42	80.44†	+ 0.42	4.86
FP Stlg Deposit	100.50	100.50†	+ 0.10	5.30
FP Tokyo	75.53	80.56	- 0.43	..
FP UK Focus	42.18	44.99†	+ 0.47	2.12
FP UK Growth	199.40	212.60	+ 1.60	2.26
-do- Accum	401.90	428.60	+ 3.30	2.26
Stewardship Dist	431.70	460.40†	+ 0.20	1.38
-do- Accum	545.50	581.80	+ 0.30	1.38
Stewdshp Inc Dist #	79.20	84.47†	- 0.14	4.77
-do- Accum #	109.90	117.20	- 0.20	4.77
N Am Stshp Dist	124.90	133.20	+ 1.40	0.26
-do- Accum	134.20	143.10	+ 1.50	0.26
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	100.60	101.10	+ 1.10	3.50
Inst Ethical Ac #	100.60	101.10	+ 1.10	3.50
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	128.40	134.40†	+ 0.20	1.61
Open Cap Gth Acc	128.80	137.00†	...	0.21
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	117.50	125.00	...	3.33
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	124.50	132.40	- 0.10	3.33
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	120.60	128.20	+ 0.10	3.87
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	128.70	136.90	+ 0.10	3.97
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 105/7				
GANDA	290.90	308.70†	+ 2.40	1.94
Cash	49.93	50.07†	+ 0.03	4.83

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Bond #	52.78	53.78	- 0.25	6.58
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690445				
Sector Value Inc #	104.00	109.60†	+ 0.90	3.78
Sector Value Gwth	105.30	111.00†	+ 0.90	2.15
Hy 5 Europe	103.00	107.90	+ 2.60	2.72
Slater Gwth	178.00	187.90†	+ 0.80	0.61
New Japan	94.38	99.39	+ 0.88	0.01
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	191.60	203.80	- 3.60	..
Income #	219.74	233.76	+ 2.85	4.15
UK Growth	86.70	92.22	+ 0.37	1.86

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
N Amer Growth	138.15	146.74	+ 0.02	0.82
Special Sits Growth	27.98	29.76	+ 0.20	1.99
UK Growth	461.84	490.46†	+ 2.12	2.56
-do- Accum	636.54	677.27	+ 2.86	2.56
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01628 825887				
Balanced Fd #	1431.70	1453.60†	+ 4.80	2.80
Income #	1040.80	1056.90	+10.90	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	185.00	166.76	- 1.40	3.58

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	84.74	90.14	- 1.03	0.45
Ecology	102.33	108.86†	+ 0.82	0.87
European	206.663	219.45	+ 1.93	0.57
Far Eastern	298.60	315.50	- 1.80	.
UK Special Sits	53.78	57.36†	+ 0.38	...
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.00	104.30	+ 0.40	7.13
Gilt Yield	118.90	125.40	- 0.20	6.87
Global Income	228.50	243.10†	- 0.80	3.64
High Yield	151.58	161.30†	- 0.70	5.78
-do- Accum	502.58	534.60†	- 2.80	5.78
Smlr Cos Div	62.27	66.24†	+ 0.03	3.42
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	155.20	165.10	- 1.20	
Asian Growth	322.70	343.30	+ 2.80	..
-do- Accum	379.20	403.40	+ 3.00	.
North American	112.10	119.30	- 0.50	0.22
European Special	123.40	131.30	- 0.70	1.27
European	178.50	189.90	+ 0.89	0.47
-do- Accum	236.20	251.30	+ 1.10	0.47
Global Eqty Inc	120.10	127.40	..	1.93
Japan	373.20	397.00	- 4.60	.
Japanese Special	203.80	216.80	- 1.40	.
Smaller Cos	146.30	155.60	- 0.40	1.04
UK Equity Growth	51.83	55.14	+ 0.17	1.81
UK Index Inc	334.90	336.60†	+ 0.35	3.04
Bircham Tst	106.70	114.70†		2.09
-do- Accum	108.10	116.20†		2.09

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	179.20	184.70	+ 0.90	2.52
-do- Accum	212.70	219.30	+ 1.10	2.52
UK Sel Pfolio	159.30	164.20	+ 1.30	2.55
-do- Accum	192.60	197.80	+ 1.50	2.55
UK 100 Cos	116.70	118.70	+ 1.30	2.85
-do- Accum	118.80	118.80	+ 1.30	2.85
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	74.22	78.86	- 0.02	3.59
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4845				
Intl Income	83.47	88.61	+ 0.75	3.49
European	105.80	112.10	+ 0.30	0.65
Income #	84.10	89.28†	+ 0.91	4.10
Nth American	100.10	106.39	+ 0.40	0.22
Far East	174.10	184.80	+ 0.50	0.08
Japan	57.89	61.45	- 0.25	...
Emging Mkts	80.59	86.10	- 1.09	0.02
Intl Growth	127.40	135.20†	+ 0.19	0.28
UK Growth	124.10	131.70†	- 0.20	2.59
UK Smlr Co	62.67	66.53†	+ 0.31	1.95
Asia Pacific	36.31	38.63	- 0.03	0.32
Glob Gwth PEP	81.37	85.14†	+ 0.10	1.33
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	100.68	107.10	- 0.40	...
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				

Firm end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
558	419	Allied Domecq	454½	- ½	6.7	13.3
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	534		3.1	17.9
131	67½	Burn Stewart	68½	- ½	6.2	72.8
775	615	Glenmorangie A	760		2.0	19.5
496	411	Grand Met	469	+ 6½	4.1	19.9
493	430	Guinness	445	- 2	4.3	13.8
378	315	Highland Dist	330½		3.2	15.6
309	277½	Matthew Clark	284	- 2	10.6	13.5
141	93	Mrydin W	110½		5.1	10.1
2612½	1481¼	SA Breweries	1506¼	+ 25	2.1	...

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3716⅝	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3668⅝	+ 37½	3.5	13.7
663	528	Abbey Nat	645½	- 5	4.5	11.9
400	315	Allied Irish	392		4.6	11.2
374¾	285	Aus New Z	354¼	+ 5¼	5.2	8.7
5784¾	3643¾	Bank America†	5759⅜	+ 153⅞		
316	227½	Bank Scotland†	277½	+ 1½	3.3	10.2
1012	683	Barclays	992	+ 6½	3.6	10.5
528½	413	Bk of Ireland	500	- 3½	4.2	11.3
482	379	Cater Allen	388½		9.7	11.5
5668⅝	4031¾	Citicorp	5562½			
392	307½	Close Bros	325	- 1½	3.8	13.1
1575	1316¼	Commerzbk	1378⅛		3.5	
1350	986½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1009⅜	- 3½	0.5	
9412½	2768¾	Deutsche Bk	2893¾	+ 8¼	2.5	
806¼	593¾	Espirito Santo	750		4.4	10.8
1507	1084¼	Fuji Bank Y	1106	+ 3¼	0.4	
472	280	Gerrard Natl	274½		10.5	11.2
267½	196	Hambros	235½	- 8½	4.0	19.7
1316	931	HSBC	1279	- 3	3.7	12.1
1264½	930	HSBC HK	1246	- 6½	3.8	11.8
477½	385	Irish Perm	477½		3.0	13.1
197	143	King Shaxson	183½		6.1	15.9
465	405	Leopold J	465		5.2	16.8
418½	294½	Lloyds TSB	390½	+ 4½	3.8	16.5
685¼	566	Nat Aust Bk	660¼	+ 5¼	8.2	9.0
726½	605½	Nat West	690	+ 6	4.8	9.9
67	49½	Rea Brothers	62½	- 1	2.0	24.6
596	464	Ryl Bk Scot	590½	+ 6½	4.2	11.0
1465	1185	Schroders	1410	+ 20	1.6	16.0
1205	890	Schroders N/V	1190	+ 12½	1.8	13.5
134	99½	Singer & Fried	128	+ 1	4.2	9.4
729½	547	Stand Chart	658½	+ 9½	2.3	12.8
115½	85½	Union	98½		3.8	10.6
£174¼	£131¼	Wells Fargo	£164⅝		1.9	
352¼	264	Westpac	334	+ 2	4.0	10.9
360	268	Wintrust	317½	- 2½	4.9	15.9

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
360	163¾	Brit Biotech	225½	- 6		
715	340	Cantab Pharms	530			
693	441	Celltech	480	- 2½		
588	234	Chiroscience	349½	- 5½		
447	166	Cortecs	190	+ ½		
1054½	767	Glaxo Well	954	- 5½	3.5	14.6
475	252	ML Laboratories	267½	- 1½		
386	258	Medeva	258½		2.1	14.6
248	175½	Peptide Thera	206½	+ 7		
808	526	Scotia	573			
256	183	Shire Pharms	191			29.0
96	69	SkyePharma	83½			
838	626½	SmithKlineB	764	+ 2½	2.5	27.7
532	445	Therp Anb Inc	460	- 10		
622	457½	Vanguard	570			
1765½	1216	Zeneca	1647½	+ 5	2.4	35.9

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	893	ADT	1160			
345½	314½	AEA Tech	345½	+ 5	2.7	14.0
125	91	Abbot Amber	113		5.5	14.5
39	25	Alphameric	37	- 1		12.6
352½	215	Alvis VS	325½	- 1	2.2	26.0

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
122	100¾	ASDA Group	119½	+ 1½	2.8	15.0
765	637	Blake Bros	746½		1.6	20.8
48¾	31	Budgen	45		3.5	11.6
21¾	13½	Cullens	17½	- ¼	3.6	
69	35½	Dairy Farm Intl	36¼		9.9	5.6
375	281	Farepak	375		2.9	16.6
65	41	Fitzwilton	63½		6.0	12.3
120	98½	Fyffes	103½	+ 3½	2.1	11.0
1370	1150	Greggs	1350		2.5	16.6
161	73½	Iceland Group†	81½	+ 1	8.3	4.9
520	299	Kwik Save	316½	+ ½	8.3	
177	142	Morrison (W)	161½	+ 3½	1.1	14.9
210½	130½	Nurdin Peack	210½		4.3	29.3
109	56	Park Foods	57½	- 3	6.5	15.4
12	5¼	Regina Hldgs	7½			
370	294	Safeway	361	+ 3½	4.4	14.6
425	341½	Sainsbury J†	361½	+ 10½	4.2	14.9
163	146½	Somerfield	151	+ 2½	7.5	6.7
337	261	Tesco†	329	- 2½	3.7	14.6
192½	133	Thorntons†	192½	...	3.4	
575	368	Watson& Philip	385½		5.4	11.4

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
178½	87	Alexon	162	+ ½		17.9
249	145½	Alders	150		5.8	9.8
298½	228	Allied Carpets	284	- 1		24.7
799	598	Argos	758½	- 1½	2.5	27.1
220½	126	Ashley (Laura)†	220½		0.6	58.4
246	150	Austin Reed†	217½		3.6	23.6
164½	126	Beattie (J)	152½		5.6	15.6
131	95	Benalls†	127½		2.2	26.6
129	67	Bellerware†	119½		2.9	16.5
332½	49½	Blacks Leis	329½	+ 3	1.0	21.4
224½	141	Body Shop†	217½	+ 2½	2.2	20.4
651½	560	Boots	617½	+ 14½	3.9	16.3
28	12	Brown & Jackson	13½			
427½	263	Brown (N)	427½	+ 1	1.8	26.7
160½	125	Burton	144½	- ¼	2.5	18.4
658	420	Carpetright	641½	- 2	2.8	29.3
253½	186	Christies Intl	249	+ 6	1.7	24.2
500	363	Church	480		3.8	17.1
176½	111	Clinton Cards	164½		4.0	11.5
181	99½	Chry Casuals†	100		7.1	12.2
1033	748	Courts Furnish	972½	- 2½	1.0	25.0
590	381	DFS Furniture†	565½	...	2.2	28.7
587½	403½	Dixons Grp	556		1.9	23.4
20¾	5½	Elec Boutique	17¼			
9¾	5¼	ERA Gp	5¼		2.2	
116	52	Essex Furn†	88½		6.7	
205	142	Etam	152½		1.0	
531	410	Fine Art Dev	442½		4.7	13.3
114	66	Ford Emb†	99½		2.6	15.4
196	128	Flying Flw Uk	172½	..	2.6	14.1
126	58	Formminster	85		1.7	
282	143	French Conn	245		1.3	23.6
195	88	Frost Group	143½	+ 1	6.2	17.9
83	60½	Glaves†	60½		4.6	14.2
385½	194	Goldsmiths Gp†	385		1.9	23.3
770	581½	GUS†	670½	+ 22½	3.1	17.5
242	100	H&C Furnishing	242	- 5½	1.6	
440	301	Hamleys†	421½	- 2½	2.5	21.2
110	80	Hampden Grp†	82½	- 2½	3.2	11.7
190	134½	Hse of Fraser†	151½	+ 9½	4.6	41.1
81½	49½	Hughes (TJ)†	78	..	4.3	18.6
332½	135	Innovations	330		0.7	13.0
345	190	JJB Sports†	311		1.4	27.9
695	504	Kingfisher†	618	+ 5½	3.4	17.7
322½	166	Kingsbury Grp	309½		1.2	21.2
445	275	Liberty	397½	+ 7½	0.6	

TRANSPORT

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
201½	107	Air London†	175		4.3	
760½	507½	All Nippon Air	520½	- 2½	0.5	
316	260	Assoc Br Ports†	275½	- 1	3.2	15.3
555	447	BAA	485		3.0	15.7
615	464	Br Airways	599½	- 7½	3.0	11.2
17	6½	Central Tran R	7½			
113	95	Clarkson (H)†	102½		4.0	3.1
175	146½	Clydeport Ops	148½	+ 1½	3.8	10.8
404½	276½	Cowie	356½	- 3	3.8	12.3
293	214	Dart	256½		2.9	15.2
117	62	Eurotunnel Uts	90			
187	139½	FirstBus	179	- 1	3.5	24.9
145	85	Fisher (James)†	145		1.7	13.2
680	525	Forth Ports	622½	- 2½	2.4	20.7
395	277	Go-Ahead	361½		1.9	15.2
432	348	Goode Durrant	368½		2.9	14.4
588	417½	Inch Cord	447½		1.1	11.3
84	65	Jacobs	71		2.3	24.4
98	81½	Lon O'Seas Frt	82½		0.7	18.1
456	345	Mersey Docks	382½		3.9	16.9
200	140	NFC	188½		4.7	23.9
518	362	Natl Express	472½	- 2½	2.8	12.7
469	372	Ocean Group	458	- 2½	4.0	18.2
100	75½	Ocean Wilsons†	78½	+ 1	5.7	6.2
654	467	P & O Dfd	593	+ 2½	6.4	15.3
189	115½	P & O 5.5%	116½		5.9	
323½	205	Railtrack (P/P)	323	+ 38	5.1	11.4
67	47	Seacon	57½		4.8	30.5
442	230	Servisair†	441	- 1	1.3	45.6
583½	317½	Stagecoach	582½		1.4	32.5
99	67	TLS†	79½	- 1½	4.6	10.3
122	62	TNT	115½	- ½		
672½	390	Tibbet & Britn	662½		3.1	24.7
229	180½	TDG	181½	- 2½	7.2	12.9
81	60	Uglands†	69		9.8	7.5
106	74	Utd Carriers	91½		4.4	

WATER

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
631	512	Anglian	569	+ 3½	7.0	6.7
785	656	Hyder	724	- 2½	6.6	10.6
109	96	Hyder Cm Pfl	105½	- ½	9.3	
605	420	Mid Kent Hldgs	597½		5.0	10.2
688	518	Severn Trent	658½	- 14	6.7	7.4
2735	2375	South Staffs	2735	+ 5	3.5	14.4
731	488	South West	580	+ 6½	7.0	6.4
599	528½	Thames†	569½	+ 7½	6.7	7.4
633	529	Utd Utilities	600½	- ½	6.0	12.1
378	296	Wessex	369½	- 7	6.1	7.3
791	580	Yorkshire	655½	+ 6	5.9	9.2

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	18	Abacus Recruit	64½			24.7
213	95	Cafe Inns	170	- 2½	1.8	13.1
160	58	Country Gdns	151½	+ 2	1.1	15.6
1850	950	Dawson Hlgs	1812½	+ 237½	2.1	16.8
41½	14	Freecharge	41½	- ½		
117	92	Megalomedia	98½	- 1		56.3
475	22½	Memory Corp	71½	- 7		
180	85¼	Old English Pub	172½		1.1	54.8
560	202½	Pet City	457½	- 2½		
595	520	Southern News	566		3.3	16.1
79½	50	Southern Vectis	70½		3.4	16.3
342	132	Surrey Fr Inns	325		0.9	
79½	46	Trocadero	53	- 1		

Source: FT Information

☐ USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101¹⁄₃₂	100⁹⁄₃₂	Treas 7% 1997	100¹⁄₃₂		6.98	6.48
107	100½	Treas 13¼% 1997	101½		13.09	6.12
107	100¼	Exch 10½% 1997	101¼		10.39	5.15
107	101	Treas 8¾% 1997	101¹¹⁄₁₆		8.60	6.53
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	107¼		13.95	6.62
105	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	103	..	9.44	6.71
109	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.21	6.80
116	109	Treas 14% 1998-01	110		12.71	6.87
122	114½	Treas 15½% 1998	114	-	13.52	6.96
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	109	-	10.99	7.03
108	104	Treas 9½% 1999	104		9.07	7.06
118	110	Exch 12¼% 1999	111	+	11.03	7.00
112	107	Treas 10½% 1999	107	+	9.74	7.08
99	96	Treas 6% 1999	97	+	6.15	6.98
112	107	Conv 10¼% 1999	108	+	9.47	7.15
108	103	Conv 9% 2000	105	+	8.53	7.10
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	102	+	7.78	7.17
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	118	+	10.99	7.20
114	100	Treas 10% 2001	108	-	9.18	7.23

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101	96½	Treas 7% 2001	98	+	7.07	7.25
114	106	Treas 9¾% 2002	110	+	8.79	7.38
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	103	+	7.76	7.39
117	39	Treas 10% 2003	113	+	8.81	7.43
121	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115	+	9.97	7.30
84	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83	+	4.19	6.23
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	111	+	8.49	7.45
97	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	+	7.05	7.47
109	101	Treas 8½% 2005	106	+	7.99	7.53
114	108	Conv 9½% 2005	112	+	8.48	7.54
131	123	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127	+	9.83	7.46
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	98	+	7.52	7.53
103	96	Treas 7¾% 2006	101	+	7.65	7.58
104	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	101	+	7.85	7.50
125	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121	+	9.71	7.44
108	101	Treas 8½% 2007	106	+	7.98	7.60
112	103	Treas 9% 2008	110	-	8.14	7.64
104	96	Treas 8% 2009	102	+	7.80	7.63

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
88	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	+	7.17	7.77
112	104	Conv 9% 2011	110	+	8.12	7.75
113	104	Treas 9% 2012	111	+	8.10	7.77
82	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	-	6.76	7.52
103	95	Treas 8% 2013	102	+	7.84	7.79
101	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99	+	7.77	7.78
103	95	Treas 8% 2015	102	+	7.82	7.77
111	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	+	8.00	7.82
141	130	Exch 12% 2013-17	139	+	8.59	7.77
103	95	Tr 8% 2021	102	-	7.81	7.77

UNDATED

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
45	41	War Ln 3½%	44	+	7.85	..
32	29	Treas 2½%	31	+	7.96	
50	45	Consols 4%	49	+	8.04	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113		0.24	2.24
185	176	Treas IL 2½% 2001	184	+	2.59	3.20
181	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	180	-	2.85	3.31
118	112	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	118	+	2.92	3.33
191	179	Treas IL 2% 2006	190	+	3.08	3.39
172	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	171	+	3.20	3.46
177	166	Treas IL 2½% 2011	177	+	3.26	3.49
146	136	Treas IL 2½% 2013	145	+	3.32	3.52
155	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	155	+	3.38	3.57
149	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	148	+	3.44	3.60
124	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	123	+	3.45	3.60
122	113	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121	+	3.45	3.60

مكان من العمل

RACING: HENDERSON-TRAINED CHASER TO CAPTURE MURPHY'S GOLD CUP

Big Matt can earn the cheers

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE fickle tastes of beer drinkers may have persuaded Whitbread to drop Mackeson after 36 years in favour of Murphy's, but nothing can stop the newly-named Gold Cup at Cheltenham today from being the true starting point for another jumps campaign.

Tradition comes in many guises and, hopefully, the key to finding the winner of this curtain-raiser will not be affected by the preferences of the sponsors and their marketing men. Custom dictates the Mackeson, sorry, the Murphy's, goes to a young chaser with a touch of class, proven around the undulations of Prestbury Park and who is best at 2½ miles.

The last ten winners have all been aged between seven and nine, won over the distance and all bar one had succeeded previously at Cheltenham or run well there in a big chase. None had carried less than 10st 1lb, which is against the pair of progressive Strongs — Medicine and Promise — who are languishing out of the handicap.

Dublin Flyer, last year's winner, invariably runs well first time out but looks vulnerable off a 6lb higher mark than last year. Barton Bank, theoretically well treated, needs further. Absalom's Lady has not won over this far and tends to run poorly at Cheltenham. Kibreet goes well fresh, won the Grand Annual Chase last March and Philip Hobbs believes he now needs 2½ miles. However, with 42 runs under his belt, he looks a touch exposed. Anabatic, the Irish raider, would prefer softer ground and has a poor jumping record, while Bavard Dieu does not look good enough. All of which leaves a shortlist of four.

Easthorpe, runner-up to Kibreet at the Festival, appeared to stay 2½ miles well enough on his seasonal reappearance and is fairly handicapped. However, Henrietta Knight's habitual front-runner may find it hard to dominate here with the free-running Dublin Flyer and Kibreet sure to force a strong pace.

A fast-run race will suit Addington Boy, who made giant strides over fences last term. With Gordon Richards's string in top form, he rates a serious danger but would be better suited by three miles. The lack of a run around here also counts against him.

Challenger Du Luc, winner of the Cathcart Chase over course and distance as a novice, has been all the rage in the ante-post exchanges, being backed down from 16-1 to joint-favouritism. Martin Pipe's runner is attractively handicapped, sure to be fit on his seasonal debut and is partnered by Richard Dunwoody, the best jockey over fences in the land.

However, I marginally prefer Big Matt, who finished third in this race 12 months ago from 7lb out of the handicap. But for an error at the final fence, he would have finished even closer. The Nicky Henderson-trained eight-year-old likes fast ground and ran a cracker on his seasonal reappearance behind Storm Alert at Ascot over two miles, where he stayed on particularly well.

Henderson's horses invariably come on for their first run — he has a 30 per cent strike-rate over the past three years with chasers having their second start — and **Big Matt** can win this competitive event.

Overall, the Cheltenham card does not look particularly punter friendly and the best bets may be found elsewhere. **Act Of Parliament** rather lost his way last season and, as a result, is well handicapped in the Macer Gifford Chase at Huntingdon (3.00).

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Act Of Parliament
(3.00 Huntingdon)
Next best: Potter's Bay
(1.45 Cheltenham)

MARTIN LYNCH

Big Matt is fancied for the Murphy's Gold Cup, in which he finished third last season

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

1.10 Hops And Pops
1.45 Potter's Bay
2.20 Make A Stand
2.55 EASTHORPE (nap)
3.30 Martomick
4.05 Kailash

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.55 ABSALOM'S LADY.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.10 FUGGLES IMPERIAL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£6,645: 3m 2f) (4 runners)

1 0U10-F6 HOPS AND POPS 7 (C,F,G,S) (Happy Band) R Alner 9-12-0 .... R Dunwoody —
2 P02P-11 VICTOR BRAVO 17 (B,C,F,G) (Mrs R Baker) N Gaselee 9-10-5 .... C Llewellyn [illegible]
3 117-213 GLENGARRIF GIRL 65 (V,D,BF,F) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 6-10-0 .... A P McCoy 98
4 04U-4P2 SAN GIORGIO 21 (CD,F,S) (P Kelsall) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 .... T Jenks 81

Long handicap: Glengarril Girl 9-11, San Giorgio 9-5

BETTING: 6-4 Victor Bravo, 2-1 Glengarrif Girl, 7-2 San Giorgio, 6-1 Hops And Pops.

1995: GREENHIL TARE AWAY 7-10-1 Peter Hobbs (13-2) P Hobbs 6 ran

1.45 WADWORTH 6X NOVICES CHASE
(£4,765: 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 0/0/121 FINE THYNE 10 (D,F,G,S) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 7-11-5 .... DOUBTFUL [illegible]
2 26121-1 POTTER'S BAY 14 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Potter) D Nicholson 7-11-5 .... A Maguire 93
3 5U23P-P FLIMSY TRUTH 15 (G) (M Weston) M Weston 10-11-0 .... Mr M Harris 79
4 0225- GENERAL PONGO 197 (Mrs J Powell) T George 7-11-0 .... R Dunwoody —

BETTING: 1-3 Potter's Bay, 2-1 General Pongo, 10-1 Flimsy Truth.

1995: BERTONE 6-11-6 J Osborne (11-10) K Bailey 6 ran

2.20 MURPHY'S DRAUGHTFLOW HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(£27,126: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1 103P4-1 CHIEF'S SONG 28 (CD,F,G) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 6-12-0 .... R Dunwoody 94
2 0232-61 DREAMS END 7 (D,F,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 8-11-12 .... R Farrant 93
3 21-2212 SPACE TRUCKER 7 (D,F,S) (Mrs E Queally) Mrs J Harrington (Ire) 5-11-11 .... J Osborne 91
4 150-112 MYSTICAL CITY 42F (D,G,S) (Phantom Synd) W Mullins (Ire) 6-11-10 .... D J Casey (3) 92
5 2114-11 CRACK ON 7 (D,F,G,S) (D Peppiatt) P Hobbs 6-11-5 .... A P McCoy 93
6 P40U-43 BARNA BOY 14 (G,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 8-11-5 .... M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
7 41-111 COUNTRY STAR 22 (D,F,G,S) (F Salman) C Brooks 5-11-3 .... G Bradley 96
8 431211 JUST LITTLE 1 (CD,F,G) (S O'Farrell) A O'Brien (Ire) 4-11-6 (6ex) .... C O'Dwyer 95
9 0111-12 MAKE A STAND 7 (D,F,G,S) (P Deal) M Pipe 5-10-12 .... A Maguire 97

BETTING: 5-2 Crack On, 5-1 Country Star, Just Little, 6-1 Space Trucker, 7-1 Chief's Song, Dreams End, 8-1 Mystical City, 10-1 Make A Stand, 25-1 Barna Boy.

1995: LONESOME TRAIN 6-9-9 B Fenton (33-1) C Weedon 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHIEF'S SONG beat Warm Spell 1l in conditions hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm). DREAMS END beat SPACE TRUCKER (1lb better off) 2½l in Tanglefoot Elite Hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good). SPACE TRUCKER beat MYSTICAL CITY (2lb better off) ½l in handicap hurdle at Listowel (2m, good to yielding) on penultimate start. CRACK ON beat Lightening Lad 2½l in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). COUNTRY STAR beat Mytton's Choice 1½l in 3-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). MAKE A STAND beat Barford Sovereign 3½l in handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 3f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: COUNTRY STAR (nap)

2.55 MURPHY'S GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE C4
(Grade III: £38,270: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 U21/11P- DUBLIN FLYER 247 (CD,G,S) (J Sumner) T Forster 10-12-0 .... B Powell 88
2 P4420-2 BARTON BANK 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-11-5 .... A Maguire 98
3 21U111- ADDINGTON BOY 210 (D,F,G,S) (Gott Foods) G Richards 8-10-10 .... B Harding 90
4 632121 ANABATIC 14 (D,F,G,S) (W Phelan) M O'Brien (Ire) 8-10-6 .... T P Rudd 91
5 114215- KIBREET 231 (C,F,G,S) (T Warner) P Hobbs 9-10-6 .... A P McCoy 90
6 31682-2 BIG MATT 14 (D,F,G,S) (T Benfield) N Henderson 8-10-4 .... M A Fitzgerald 96
7 213123- CHALLENGER DU LUC 203 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-10-2 .... R Dunwoody 90
8 11126-2 EASTHORPE 22 (C,BF,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 8-10-1 .... J Osborne 89
9 20152-1 ABSALOM'S LADY 11 (F,G,S) (Whitcombe) Miss G Kelleway 8-10-1 (5ex) .... D Bridgwater [illegible]
10 U411-43 BAVARD DIEU 7 (D,F,G,S) (Saguaro Stables) N Gaselee 8-10-0 .... C Llewellyn 86
11 483P-11 STRONG MEDICINE 7 (C,D,F,G) (D Silk) K Bailey 9-10-0 (3ex) .... C O'Dwyer 81
12 24-1211 STRONG PROMISE 14 (CD,F,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-10-0 .... K Gaule (3) 75

Long handicap: Strong Medicine 9-6, Strong Promise 8-9.

BETTING: 9-2 Big Matt, 5-1 Addington Boy, Challenger Du Luc, Dublin Flyer, 7-1 Kibreet, 10-1 Absalom's Lady, Anabatic, Easthorpe, 14-1 Strong Medicine, 16-1 Barton Bank, 20-1 Strong Promise, 25-1 Bavard Dieu.

1995: DUBLIN FLYER 9-11-8 B Powell (4-1) T Forster 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

DUBLIN FLYER beat Egypt Mill Prince ½l in this race (good) last year with BIG MATT (2lb better off) 4l 3rd. BARTON BANK 7l 2nd of 4 to One Man in grade II Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). ADDINGTON BOY beat CHALLENGER DU LUC (8lb better off) 9l in Future Champion Novices Chase at Ayr (2m 4f, soft). ANABATIC beat Sound Man 20l in 3-runner Fortria Handicap Chase at Navan (2m 1f, yielding). BIG MATT neck 2nd of 4 to Storm Alert in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm). CHALLENGER DU LUC beat Air Shot 8l in Cathcart Chase here (2m 5f, good). ABSALOM'S LADY beat Coulton 2½l in Haldon Gold Cup Chase at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). STRONG MEDICINE beat EASTHORPE (14lb better off) 1½l in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm). STRONG PROMISE beat Minor Key 27l in 2-runner novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: BARTON BANK

3.30 FLOWERS ORIGINAL HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£10,055: 3m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 2/2P2/3 MARTOMICK 20 (F,G,S) (G Milne) K Bailey 9-11-10 .... C O'Dwyer —
2 03F60-6 WILLSFORD 7 (CD,F,G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 13-11-0 .... R Farrant —
3 U125/1-2 COPPER MINE 14 (F,G,S) (J Dougall) O Sherwood 10-10-2 .... J Osborne [illegible]
4 115321 EVANGELICA 25 (F,S) (M Pipe Racing) M Pipe 6-10-0 .... A P McCoy 92
5 226-122 FROZEN DROP 20 (F,G) (J Collen) P Ritchens 9-10-0 .... DOUBTFUL 80

Long handicap: Evangelica 9-10, Frozen Drop 8-10.

BETTING: 6-4 Martomick, 7-4 Evangelica, 3-1 Copper Mine, 6-1 Willsford.

1995: WILLSFORD 12-12-0 W Marston (9-2) Mrs J Pitman 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MARTOMICK 32l 3rd of 4 to Coulton in grade II Desert Orchid South West Pattern Chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm).
WILLSFORD showed nothing when distant last of 5 to Inchcailloch in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good). Beat Earth Summit 9l in this race (good) last year. COPPER MINE 18l 2nd of 4 to Time Enough in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to firm).
EVANGELICA beat Time Enough 1l in 3-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, firm).
Selection: WILLSFORD

4.05 MACKESON NOVICES HURDLE C4
(Grade II: £8,792: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 43- FOXIES LAD 198 (Mrs C Fox) K Babbage 5-10-12 .... V Slattery —
2 1 GREEN GREEN DESERT 7 (D,F) (D Mercer) O Sherwood 5-10-12 .... D Bridgwater 89
3 /01/2/1 HERBERT LODGE 18 (CD,F,G) (Mrs D Thompson) K Bailey 7-10-12 .... C O'Dwyer 96
4 1-11111 KAILASH 17 (CD,F,G) (M Fletcher) M Pipe 5-10-12 .... A P McCoy [illegible]
5 SOVIET BRIDE 65F (T Shepherd) S Dow 4-10-7 .... R Dunwoody —

BETTING: 6-4 Green Green Desert, 2-1 Kailash, 7-2 Herbert Lodge, 6-1 Soviet Bride, 25-1 Foxies Lad.

1995: MANDYS MANTINO 5-10-12 P Hide (8-1) J Gifford 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

FOXIES LAD 2l 3rd of 15 to Spring Double in maiden National Hunt Flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good).
GREEN GREEN DESERT beat Swan Street 3½l in 14-runner maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm).
HERBERT LODGE beat Charlie Parrot 1½l in 9-runner maiden hurdle over course and distance (good to firm).
KAILASH beat Shannon Lad 9l in 5-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (firm). SOVIET BRIDE beat Game Ploy short-head in handicap at Chepstow (1m 2f, good to firm) on Flat.
Selection: HERBERT LODGE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
K Bailey	19	83	22.9	A P McCoy	15	61	24.6
T Forster	5	22	22.7	C O'Dwyer	4	18	22.2
O Sherwood	11	59	18.6	R Dunwoody	36	191	18.8
D Nicholson	28	161	17.4	A Maguire	24	153	15.7
Mrs J Pitman	13	77	16.9	J Osborne	19	147	12.9
N Twiston-Davies	31	205	15.1	D Bridgwater	13	101	12.9
C Brooks	6	45	13.3	T Jenks	5	42	11.9
M Pipe	281	231	12.1	C Llewellyn	12	113	10.6

Just Little handed large opportunity

CHELTENHAM
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.20: Country Star and Make A Stand are progressive and at the right end of the handicap, but both like to front run, which could set this up for a horse coming from off the pace. **Just Little** won comfortably here yesterday and it would be no surprise to see Aidan O'Brien's charge follow up.

Dreams End, fresh from a successful spell on the Flat, beat the Irish-trained Space Trucker by 1½ lengths at Wincanton a week ago but meets that rival on 1lb worse terms. There should again be little between them. Chief's Song has plenty of weight but Crack On is on the upgrade and could pose a big threat.

2.55: see above.

3.30: **Copper Mine** has been given every chance by the handicapper and should be much straighter for his second to Time Enough at Warwick after a year on the sidelines. Time Enough had previously just failed to beat Evangelica and a strict reading of the form gives the Sherwood-trained runner every chance.

Martomick was running a good race against Coulton and Gales Cavalier at Wincanton when blundering four out, but Kim Bailey's fast ground-loving mare would have every chance on her form of two seasons ago.

4.05: At least two lofty reputations will be dented in this hot contest. Green Green Desert, a scallywag on the Flat, put his best foot forward at Uttoxeter seven days ago on his hurdling debut and could go far provided he does not revert to his bad old ways. Kailash, unbeaten in six starts, including here 17 days ago, is unlikely to offer much value and **Herbert Lodge** is preferred. Second to the useful Berude Not To two seasons ago, he missed last term but won comfortably here recently and is well regarded.

RICHARD EVANS

AYR

THUNDERER

12.35 Northern Motto. 1.05 Crown Equerry. 1.35 Cittadino. 2.10 The Grey Monk. 2.40 Nicholas Plant. 3.10 Regal Romper. 3.40 Ardronan.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.35 SEAN GRAHAM JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,346: 2m) (11 runners)

1 14 ROSSEL 51 (D,F) P Monteith 11-4 .... A Dobbin 84
2 CRY BABY 118F A Whillans 10-12 .... M Foster —
3 242 GLOBE RUNNER 10 J J O'Neill 10-12 .... A Roche [illegible]
4 MAPLETON Mrs S Smith 10-12 .... R Guest —
5 NORTHERN MOTTO 9F J Goldie 10-12 .... G Lee (3) —
6 4 RATTLE 12 J J O'Neill 10-12 .... R McGrath (5) —
7 SWYNFORD SUPREME 14F J Bottomley 10-12 .... D Byrne —
8 2 THE BOOZING BRIEF 12 (B,BF) C Parker 10-12 .... D Parker 88
9 0 THORNTOUN ESTATE 51 M Todhunter 10-12 .... M Dwyer —
10 PRECIOUS GIRL 24F D Moffatt 10-7 .... D J Moffatt —
11 SOUNDS DEVIOUS C Parker 10-7 .... B Storey —

9-4 Globe Runner, 4-1 The Boozing Brief, 5-1 Rossel, 6-1 Northern Motto, 7-1 Rattle, 8-1 Precious Girl, 12-1 Mapleton, 14-1 others.

1.05 SEAN GRAHAM NOVICES CHASE
(£3,714: 3m 1f) (8)

1 2012 ARRANGE A GAME 38 (F) Miss J Bower 9-11-0 S Taylor (5) —
2 3-42 BOLD ACCOUNT 12 (G) G Moore 6-11-0 .... N Bentley 63
3 234- CROWN EQUERRY 253 (G) G Richards 6-11-0 N Williamson —
4 0/5- KINGS SERMON 372 P Beaumont 7-11-0 .... R Supple —
5 333- NAUGHTY FUTURE 205 (G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-0 .... A Roche —
6 3 PANTARA PRINCE 8 (BF) J Charlton 7-11-0 .... A Dobbin 55
7 3 ROYAL PARIS 10 Mrs S Smith 8-11-0 .... R Guest —
8 /05- THE BIRD O'DONNELL 232 (G,S) F Murphy 10-11-0 .... Mr T J Barry (7) [illegible]

4-5 Crown Equerry, 6-1 Naughty Future, 7-1 Bold Account, 8-1 Pantara Prince, 10-1 Kings Sermon, 12-1 Royal Paris, 14-1 others.

1.35 SEAN GRAHAM BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,668: 2m) (9)

1 0/F RARFY'S DREAM 7 (D,F,G) D McCune 8-12-0 .... K Johnson —
2 1212 SARMATIAN 31 (CD,F,G) M Hammond 5-11-12 .... R Garritty 90
3 25-2 HIGHBANK 15 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-7 .... G Lee (3) 94
4 513- CITTADINO 199 (CD,G,S) C Thornton 6-11-6 .... M Foster 90
5 /05- FAMILIAR ART 404 (D,G,S) D Moffatt 5-10-7 .... D J Moffatt 84
6 113- MISS GREENYARDS 185 (CD,F,S) A Whillans 5-10-2 D Parker 90
7 12-4 TRIENNIUM 183 (BF,F) P Monteith 7-10-0 .... A Dobbin [illegible]
8 P/6 MARLINGFORD 14 (D,G,S) Mrs J Jordan 9-10-0 S Taylor (5) —
9 5555 AIDE MEMOIRE 15 (S) Mrs B Broad 7-10-0 .... G Cahill (3) 76

3-1 Highbank, 7-2 Sarmatian, 9-2 Cittadino, 6-1 Miss Greenyards, 7-1 Triennium, 8-1 Familiar Art, 10-1 Rarfy's Dream, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Whillans, 6 winners from 23 runners, 26.1%; G Richards, 43 from 168, 25.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 34 from 142, 23.9%; J J O'Neill, 19 from 87, 21.8%; C Thornton, 5 from 23, 21.7%; M Hammond, 10 from 61, 16.4%.

JOCKEYS: R Garritty, 5 winners from 19 rides, 26.3%; N Williamson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; A Roche, 9 from 37, 24.3%; P Niven, 31 from 135, 23.0%; G Cahill, 9 from 44, 20.5%; A Dobbin, 24 from 131, 18.3%.

2.10 SEAN GRAHAM CHASE
(Limited handicap: £10,065: 3m 1f) (5)

1 P24- JODAMI 203 (C,F,G,S) P Beaumont 11-11-12 .... M Dwyer 93
2 010- MORCELI 203 (G,S) J Johnson 8-11-0 .... N Williamson [illegible]
3 116- BETTER TIMES AHEAD 247 (G,S) G Richards 10-10-6 L O'Hara 81
4 111- THE GREY MONK 254 (C,G,S) G Richards 8-10-5 .... A Dobbin 83
5 32P- MORGANS HARBOUR 210 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-5 .... P Niven 84

7-4 The Grey Monk, 3-1 Better Times Ahead, 4-1 Morceli, 9-2 Jodami, 7-1 Morgans Harbour.

2.40 SEAN GRAHAM HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,630: 2m 4f) (10)

1 05-1 BURNT IMP 15 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 5-12-8 .... J Callaghan 97
2 45F- BEND SABLE 252 (C,F,S) F Storey 6-11-8 .... B Storey 95
3 32/ MR KNITWIT 569 (CD,G) P Monteith 9-11-8 .... A Dobbin —
4 45-6 COOL LUKE 10 (F,S) F Murphy 7-10-12 .... N Williamson 98
5 212- CRYSTAL GIFT 173 (S) A Whillans 4-10-8 .... G Cahill (3) 93
6 242- ROYAL CITIZEN 417 (D,F,G) J Bottomley 7-10-6 .... D Byrne 90
7 2613 NICHOLAS PLANT 14 (CD,BF,F,S) J Goldie 7-10-4 G Lee (3) [illegible]
8 2513 COMMANDER GLEN 16 (BF,F) M Hammond 4-10-2 .... Mr C Bonner (3) 96
9 053- GRANDMAN 253 (S) D Moffatt 5-10-2 .... D J Moffatt 91
10 4P-4 YOUNG STEVEN 71 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-0 .... M Foster 81

7-2 Burnt Imp, 4-1 Cool Luke, 5-1 Crystal Gift, 7-1 Royal Citizen, 8-1 Mr Knitwit, Nicholas Plant, 10-1 others.

3.10 SEAN GRAHAM BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,744: 2m) (6)

1 PPP- ALL THE ACES 206 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 9-12-0 .... M Dwyer —
2 1-23 POLITICAL TOWER 15 (CD,BF,F,G,S) R Nixon 9-11-2 A Dobbin [illegible]
3 4201 NORDIC THORN 20 (F,G) M Brassil (Ire) 6-10-11 N Williamson 90
4 -311 REGAL ROMPER 5 (D,F,G) Mrs S Smith 8-10-9 (5ex) R Guest 95
5 552- ONE FOR THE POT 211 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs A Naughton 11-10-4 .... M Foster 98
6 325- MONTRAVE 185 (CD,F,G) P Monteith 7-10-0 .... G Cahill (3) 91

2-1 Regal Romper, 7-2 Nordic Thorn, 4-1 Political Tower, 5-1 All The Aces, 7-1 One For The Pot, 8-1 Montrave.

3.40 SEAN GRAHAM STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,070: 2m) (20)

1 1- ARDRONAN 531 (S) J J O'Neill 6-11-11 .... R McGrath (5) —
2 0 AIR BRIDGE 32 R Whitaker 4-11-4 .... D Byrne —
3 623- ARDARROCH PRINCE 204 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 .... P Niven —
4 2-2 BLOOD BROTHER 16 J Barclay 4-11-4 .... N Horrocks (7) —
5 CARNANEE I Ferguson (Ire) 6-11-4 .... Mr B R Hamilton —
6 6 GALE FORCE 20 P Beaumont 5-11-4 .... B Grattan (7) —
7 0- HARFDECENT 317 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 T J Comerford (7) —
8 0 JACKHO 21 Miss J Bower 4-11-4 .... J Callaghan —
9 U LORD OF THE LOCH 21 (BF) L Lungo 5-11-4 .... M Foster —
10 POLITICAL MILLSTAR R Nixon 4-11-4 .... N Bentley —
11 0- ROADWAY JOKER 242 M Barnes 5-11-4 .... J Burke —
12 0- SKIDDAW KNIGHT 210 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 .... G Cahill (3) —
13 0 SOUNDPOST 15 D Moffatt 4-11-4 .... D J Moffatt —
14 5 STRONG MINT 20 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 .... G Lee (3) —
15 TADPOLE B Ellison 4-11-4 .... D Bentley —
16 TEELIN BAY C Parker 4-11-4 .... D Parker —
17 THE STUFFED PUFFIN L Lungo 4-11-4 .... M Dwyer —
18 YOUNG ENDEAVOUR J J O'Neill 4-11-4 .... A Roche —
19 CHINOOK'S DAUGHTER G Richards 4-10-13 .... A Dobbin —
20 MOVISA W Smith 6-10-13 .... S Taylor (5) —

3-1 Ardarroch Prince, 4-1 Ardronan, 5-1 Blood Brother, 7-1 Chinook's Daughter, 8-1 Lord Of The Loch, 10-1 Strong Mint, Gale Force, 12-1 others.

THUNDERER

12.40 No Pattern. 1.10 Blasket Hero. 1.40 Far Dawn. 2.15 Supreme Star. 2.50 Duhallow Lodge. 3.25 Battleship Bruce. 4.00 Supermick.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASES); GOOD (HURDLES)
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.40 SCANIA 4-SERIES NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,110: 2m) (12 runners)

101 2 ABOVE THE CUT 11 C Morlock 4-10-12 .... C Maude
102 F- AGANEROT 275 A Hobbs 6-10-12 .... R Greene
103 0- DANEGOLD 23F M Channon 4-10-12 .... A Thornton
104 605- KUMARI KING 199 A Carroll 6-10-12 .... D Morris
105 5-F LABURNUM GOLD 11 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 .... I Lawrence
106 3/0 L'EQUIPE 14 C Mann 6-10-12 .... J Magee (3)
107 00- MUSEUM 149F P Winkworth 5-10-12 .... D Leahy
108 26- NO PATTERN 18F G L Moore 4-10-12 .... J Railton
109 NORTHERN SPRUCE 178F A Foster 4-10-12 .... W McFarland
110 3 SAHEL 14 J Mullins 8-10-12 .... S Curran
111 2- SECRET SPRING 21F P Hedger 4-10-12 .... M Richards
112 P0/ SEMINOLE WIND 602 C Barwell 5-10-12 .... B Fenton

9-4 No Pattern, 4-1 Laburnum Gold, 5-1 Sahel, 6-1 Secret Spring, 7-1 Above The Cut, 8-1 L'Equipe, 12-1 Danegold, 14-1 others.

1.10 SCANIA VEHICLE MANAGEMENT NOVICES CHASE (£3,966: 3m) (6)

201 1213 BLASKET HERO 7 (B,F,G) Mrs S Williams 8-10-12 .... B Fenton
202 0F-0 DAMCADA 17 (S) A Carroll 8-10-12 .... T J Murphy
203 2 GREY GORDEN 17 (G,S) R Curtis 8-10-12 .... D Morris
204 1P5- SECRET BID 358 (F) R Alner 6-10-12 .... W McFarland
205 0PY THE HERBIVORE 593 M Roberts 7-10-12 .... J Railton
206 00 HOLLOW WOOD 40 D Williams 5-10-10 .... A Thornton

4-6 Blasket Hero, 7-2 Grey Gorden, 9-2 Secret Bid, 12-1 Damcada, 20-1 Hollow Wood, The Herbivore.

1.40 SCANIA 4-SERIES HORSEPOWER JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,688: 2m) (19)

301 AAVASAKSA A Newcombe 10-12 .... A Thornton
302 46 COLEBROOK WILLIE 37 J Bosley 10-12 .... M Bosley
303 0F COLOUR COUNSELLOR 14 R Flower 10-12 .... D O'Sullivan
304 DURALOCK FENCER 47F P Murphy 10-12 .... J Railton
305 FAR DAWN 41F Mrs A Perrett 10-12 .... C Maude
306 GENERAL HENRY 277F A Moore 10-12 .... M Batchelor (7)
307 HALF AN INCH 73F T Jones 10-12 .... D Leahy
308 IMPENDING DANGER 95F K Bridgwater 10-12 .... V Slattery
309 6 IN CAHOOTS 14 A Smith 10-12 .... F Jousset
310 8 IT'S DAWAN 22 P Mitchell 10-12 .... L Harvey
311 MOYLOUGH REBEL 91F J Long 10-12 .... B Fenton
312 SAMARA SONG 19F W G M Turner 10-12 .... J Power (7)
313 0 STERLING FELLOW 7 (V) D Williams 10-12 .... M Clarke
314 STONECUTTER M Channon 10-12 .... P Holley
315 00 THE GREY WEAVER 14 R Flower 10-12 .... T Dascombe (3)
316 YOUNG MAZAAD 140F D O'Brien 10-12 .... T J Murphy
317 U EMBROIDERED 25 R Flower 10-7 .... J K McCarthy (7)
318 HAWANAFA 69F J Moore 10-7 .... W McFarland
319 ILLEGALLY YOURS 79F L Montague Hall 10-7 .... D Morris

7-2 Colour Counsellor, 5-1 Far Dawn, 6-1 Stonecutter, 8-1 Young Mazaad, In Cahoots, 10-1 Aavasaksa, Illegally Yours, 14-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME TODAY: Huntingdon: 1.00 Daring Ryde. Windsor: 1.40 Sterling Fellow. Ayr: 12.35 The Boozing Brief.

2.15 SCANIA NATIONAL ACCOUNTS HURDLE
(Novices handicap: £2,798: 2m 4f) (9)

401 /12 SUPREME STAR 25 (BF,F) P Hedger 5-11-11 .... A Thornton
402 /0-5 SLIPMATIC 21 A Turnell 7-11-7 .... C Rae (7)
403 20-2 DREAM LEADER 17 M Roberts 6-11-7 .... J Railton
404 00-0 PAVLOVA 42 R Rowe 6-11-4 .... D O'Sullivan
405 35-5 GERRY'S PRIDE 24 J Mullins 5-11-1 .... S Curran
406 55-4 FIRST INSTANCE 25 D Grissell 6-10-12 .... B Fenton
407 6335 POSITIVO 7 Miss C Caroe 5-10-12 .... D Leahy
408 612- BOSSYMOSS 182 (D,F) A Streeter 7-10-11 .... T Eley
409 0034 CATWALKER 24 (B) H Webb 5-10-0 .... Sophie Mitchell (5)

3-1 Supreme Star, 7-2 Dream Leader, 5-1 Bossymoss, 6-1 Positivo, 7-1 First Instance, 8-1 Pavlova, Gerry's Pride, 12-1 others.

2.50 SCANIA 1996 TRUCK OF THE YEAR HANDICAP CHASE (£4,352: 2m 5f) (6)

501 3443 WHO'S TO SAY 17 (F,G,S) Miss V Williams 10-12-0 .... Mr R Thornton (5)
502 3P-F DUHALLOW LODGE 7 (G,S) C Barwell 9-11-6 .... B Fenton
503 -FU4 LAKE OF LOUGHREA 29 (F,G) K Bailey 6-11-0 .... A Thornton
504 F0-5 TOO PLUSH 15 (G,S) A Turnell 7-10-13 .... L Harvey
505 /1-6 KINDLE'S DELIGHT 40 (F,G) Miss H Knight 8-10-13 T J Murphy
506 3-41 MONKS JAY 7 (D,F,G) G Thorner 7-10-8 .... I Lawrence

6-4 Monks Jay, 3-1 Too Plush, 7-2 Who's To Say, 6-1 Lake Of Loughrea, Duhallow Lodge, 14-1 Kindle's Delight.

3.25 SCANIA 4-SERIES NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,093: 2m) (11)

601 00-1 NAHRAWALI 61 (F) A Moore 5-11-6 .... M Batchelor (7)
602 205- BATTLESHIP BRUCE 77F T Casey 4-10-12 .... S Ryan (5)
603 F BRAYDON FOREST 28 C Drewe 4-10-12 .... Guy Lewis (3)
604 HAZAAF 1606F A Smith 7-10-12 .... F Jousset
605 LANESRA BREEZE 529F T Naughton 4-10-12 .... A Thornton
606 PP0- LITTLE SHEFFORD 192 M Muggeridge 4-10-12 .... S Curran
607 P WEB OF STEEL 11 C Hemsley 6-10-12 .... M Bosley
608 P- MISS THE BEAT 331 S Mellor 4-10-7 .... Chris Webb (5)
609 P- QUEEN OF SHANNON 19F A Carroll 8-10-7 .... T J Murphy
610 TIME GOES ON 54F R Hodges 4-10-7 .... T Dascombe (3)
611 TREHANE 872F N Graham 4-10-7 .... J Railton

6-4 Battleship Bruce, 2-1 Nahrawali, 8-1 Trehane, 12-1 Little Shefford, Lanesra Breeze, Time Goes On, 16-1 others.

4.00 SCANIA 4-SERIES KING OF THE ROAD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,997: 2m) (8)

1 2151 PAIR OF JACKS 10 (D,F,G) G L Moore 6-11-10 .... Mr R Thornton (5)
2 836- ADDED DIMENSION 381 P Winkworth 5-11-8 .... D Leahy
3 142- MUHTASHIM 173 (S) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-11-7 .... B Fenton
4 355- KELLY MAC 171F (CD,S) D O'Brien 6-11-6 .... T J Murphy
5 36-2 SUPERMICK 14 (S) W Muir 5-11-1 .... M Richards
6 0-0S ANLACE 11 (D,F,G) S Mellor 7-11-0 .... Chris Webb (5)
7 500- DONTDRESSFORDINNER 204 (F,G) R Hodges 6-10-13 .... T Dascombe (3)
8 P004 WILL JAMES 11 (B,CD,F,G) C Drewe 10-10-0 .... Guy Lewis (3)

9-4 Pair Of Jacks, 4-1 Supermick, Muhtashim, 5-1 Kelly Mac, 6-1 Added Dimension, 10-1 Anlace, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Turnell, 5 winners from 25 runners, 20.0%; P Hedger, 4 from 21, 19.0%; K Bailey, 9 from 48, 18.8%; Miss H Knight, 8 from 46, 17.4%; D Grissell, 4 from 24, 16.7%; S Mellor, 4 from 40, 10.0%.

JOCKEYS: T J Murphy, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%; M Richards, 8 from 66, 12.1%; J Railton, 6 from 52, 11.5%. Only qualifiers.

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9/2 Challenger Du Luc
11/2 Addington Boy
11/2 Dublin Flyer
7/1 Kibreet
9/1 Easthorpe
10/1 Absalom's Lady
10/1 Anabatic
16/1 Barton Bank
16/1 Strong Promise
25/1 Strong Medicine
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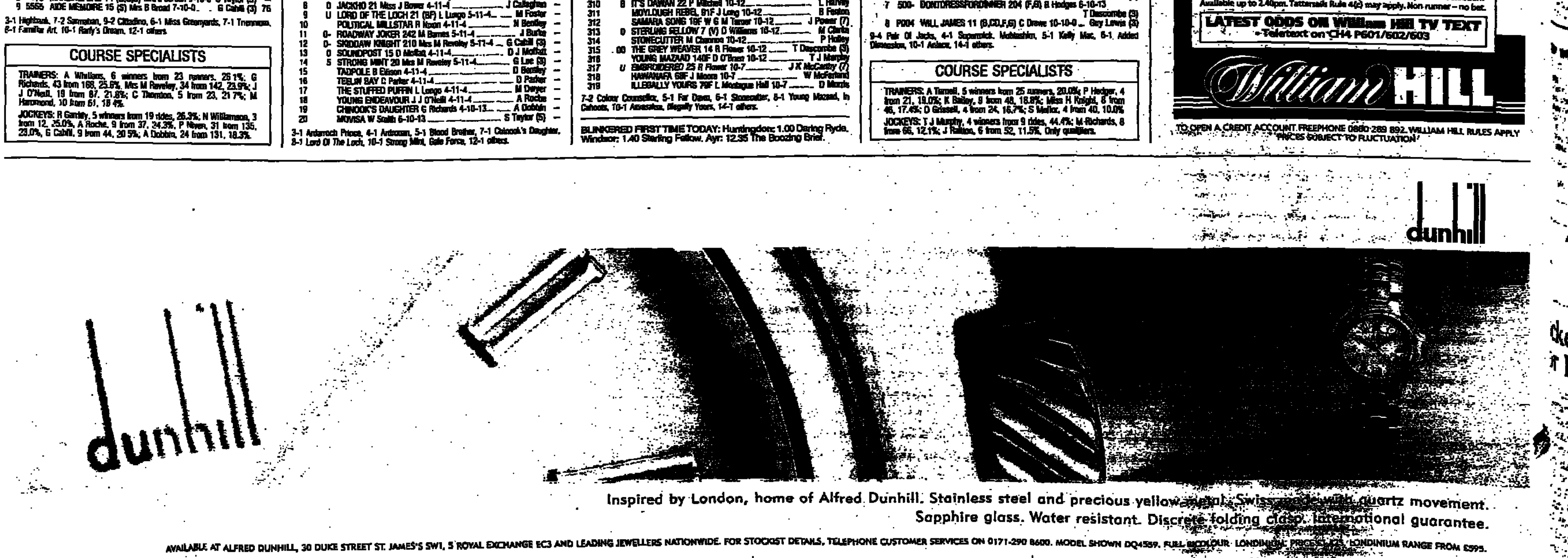

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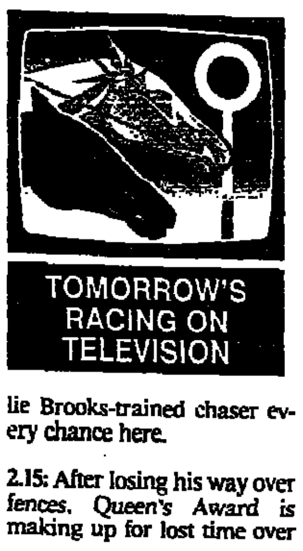
Mulligan to confirm early promise

CHELTENHAM
CHANNEL 4



1.40: Philip's Woody is arguably best in at the weights but has yet to win beyond an extended 2½ miles and does not look the gamest in a finish. Vicosa, trained by Robert Alner, looked ill at ease on the easy ground at Huntingdon last time and should appreciate the faster surface, which helped him win three chases last season.

Time Enough has improved this term, running well twice at Warwick, a course which takes some jumping. His second to Evangelica and victory over Copper Mine gives the Charlie Brooks-trained chaser every chance here.

2.15: After losing his way over fences, Queen's Award is making up for lost time over hurdles and makes a quick reappearance after winning with considerable ease at Newbury on Wednesday. Bob Buckler's progressive stayer will not be far away despite being a few pounds out of the handicap.

However, ***Old Archives*** could prove the value alternative having travelled particularly well at Fontwell on his seasonal reappearance before tiring in the straight. He has been dropped 13lb since last season and could oblige at decent odds.

2.50: McGregor The Third was mightily impressive when winning the first running of this contest by 15 lengths a year ago and, with the Gordon Richards-trained runner having shown improved form this season, he is hard to oppose. Irish Stamp ran well in the Pardubicka and should be suited by this cross-country course, but Ferdy Murphy's string is not firing on all cylinders. The two Czech raiders, Marketplace and Furtado, are hard to assess.

3.25: The Charlie Mann-trained Celibate is the form choice and improving, judged on his three victories over fences this term. However, he may have to give best to **Mulligan**, who was bought out of Mouse Morris's Irish yard for £100,000 in May and began to repay the investment when outclassing the opposition on his chasing debut at Uttoxeter nine days ago.

Paul Webber's Land Afar, who has the Arkle Chase as his long-term objective, was the best of these over hurdles and made an encouraging debut over fences at Kempton last month.

RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MULLIGAN
(3.25 Cheltenham)
NB: McGregor The Third
(2.50 Cheltenham)

CHELTENHAM TOMORROW

THUNDERER

1.05 Mister RM
1.40 Vicosa
2.15 **QUEEN'S AWARD** *(nap)*
2.50 McGregor The Third
3.25 Mulligan
4.00 Noble Lord

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.50 MCGREGOR THE THIRD.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.05 CARLTON REFRIGERATION FRASER DIGBY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,316: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1	1-1F643	ROBERT'S TOY 43 (D,F,G) (C Smith) M Pipe 5-11-12	B Moore (5)	96
2	115	*MISTER RM 12 (CD,F,G) (F Mills, W Mills) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-10*	D Walsh	97
3	00-0214	HAY DANCE 109 (D,G) (Wessex Go Racing Pnrs) P Hobbs 5-10-8	D J Kavanagh	90
4	F432-30	HANDSON 15 (S) (Burrow Racing) B Millman 4-10-0	D Salter	97
5	5-23423	KALZARI 19 (D,G) (D Deacon) A Carroll 11-10-0	L Suthern (5)	[illegible]
6	501-1P3	HULLO MARY DOLL 12 (G) (Plough Twenty) A Chamberlain 7-10-0	Chris Webb	96

Long handicap: Kalzari 9-13, Hullo Mary Doll 9-6

BETTING: 9-4 Robert's Toy, 3-1 Mister Rm, 7-2 Hay Dance, 6-1 Kalzari, 7-1 Hullo Mary Doll, 8-1 Handson.

1995: WINDWARD ARIOM 9-11-6 A Lamach (6-1) K Burke 12 ran

1.40 FOOD BROKERS-GLOYSTARNE HANDICAP CHASE

C4

(£4,856: 3m 1f) (6 runners)

1	03211F-	KILLESHIN 246 (G,S) (H Manners) H Manners 10-12-0	S Curran	[illegible]
2	3223-12	PHILIP'S WOODY 18 (F,G,S) (N Knox) N Henderson 8-10-10	J R Kavanagh	93
3	2112-33	VICOSA 21 (BF,F,S) (Diamond Racing Ltd) R Alner 7-10-7	P Henley (3)	89
4	33-62P2	*PAPER STAR 11 (D,F) (Gallery Racing) M Muggeridge 9-10-0*	*B Powell*	86
5	1P3-221	TIME ENOUGH 15 (F,S) (The Lewis Pnrs) C Brooks 7-10-0	J Osborne	88
6	226-122	FROZEN DROP 21 (D,F,G) (J Cullen) P Rechens 9-10-0	S Fox	88

Long handicap: *Paper Star 9-12, Time Enough 9-12, Frozen Drop 9-12*

BETTING: 11-4 Time Enough, 7-2 Philip's Woody, 4-1 Vicosa, 9-2 Killeshin, 5-1 Frozen Drop, 7-1 Paper Star

1995: FLORIDA SKY 8-10-5 G Bradley (20-1) C Brooks 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

KILLESHIN beat Silver Stick 5l in a 15-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (4m 1f, good to soft). PHILIP'S WOODY 1½l 2nd of 5 to Wise Approach in a handicap chase here (2m 4f 110yd, firm). VICOSA 26l 3rd of 4 to Merlins Dream in a handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good). PAPER STAR 8l 2nd of 7 to Drumcullen in a handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good). TIME ENOUGH beat Copper Mine 18l in a 4-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good to firm). FROZEN DROP ¾l 2nd of 7 to Special Account in a handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm)

Selection: TIME ENOUGH

2.15 MURPHY'S NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

C4

(£4,856 3m 2f) (7 runners)

1	2-21P22	TIPPING THE LINE 19 (F,G) (Mrs L Sewell) M Pipe 6-11-10	R Dunwoody	88
2	0-00121	FORT DEELY 15 (G) (P Doncon) E McNamara 5-10-9	N Williamson	92
3	56464-5	OLD ARCHIVES 18 (F) (P Zenes) L Wells 7-10-5	J Osborne	[illegible]
4	050F4-5	COOLE HILL 12 (G) (Messrs B Winfield, J Potter) D Nicholson 5-10-3	A Maguire	91
5	556-132	MISTER BLAKE 16 (F) (W Sowerby) R Lee 6-10-0	R Johnson	93
6	PP-21P2	HYLTERS CHANCE 8 (F) (Mrs A Vere) P Hobbs 5-10-0	L Harvey	97
7	P/FF-011	*QUEEN'S AWARD 4 (G) (R Buckler) R Buckler 7-10-2 (5ex)*	*M Griffiths (7)*	*97*

Long handicap: Hylters Chance 9-11, Queen's Award 9-5

BETTING: 11-4 Queen's Award, 7-2 Fort Deely, 4-1 Tipping The Line, 5-1 Hylters Chance, 6-1 Coole Hill, 8-1 Mister Blake, 12-1 Old Archives

1995: SAN GIORGIO 6-12-5 T Jenks (4-1) N Twiston-Davies 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

TIPPING THE LINE 10l 2nd of 5 to Hurdant Rock in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good to firm). FORT DEELY beat Valley Of Kings 4½l in handicap hurdle at Clonmel (3m, yield). OLD ARCHIVES [illegible] 5th of 9 to Victor Bravo in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good). COOLE HILL 32l 5th of 13 to Allow in novices' handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f good to soft). MISTER BLAKE beat Lear Dancer 4l in 11-runner maiden hurdle at Worcester (3m good to firm). HYLTERS CHANCE neck 2nd of 9 to River Room in novices' handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good). QUEEN'S AWARD beat Spaceage Gold 4l in 9-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good). Previously beat MISTER BLAKE (18lb better off) 15l in 6-runner conditional jockeys novices handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good)

Selection: QUEEN'S AWARD

2.50 SPORTING INDEX CHASE

C4

(Cross country chase: £8,489: 3m 7f) (8 runners)

1	P20F-22	IRISH STAMP 35 (F,S) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 7-11-5	N Williamson	88
2	2315-43	ITS A SNIP 35 (B,G,S) (The Ivy Fire Partnership) C Mann 11-11-5	R Dunwoody	67
3	66R-112	MCGREGOR THE THIRD 21 (C,F,G) (Mrs D Whateley) G Richards 10-11-2	B Harding	[illegible]
4	035-551	MARKETPLACE 35 (G) (Trojacek) P Sloza (Cze) 5-10-13	P Sloza	–
5	100102	FURTADO 21 (S) [illegible] J Vana (Cze) 7-10-10	J Vana	–
6	2U4PP-0	COOL CHARACTER 122 (G) (N Elliott) R Eccles 8-10-7	B Powell	53
7	U-36103	SEASAMACAMILE 18 (F,S) (M West) R Buckler 9-10-5	A Maguire	55
8	1C444-3	SHAMARPHIL 11 (F,S) (Miss S Barraclough) R Alner 10-10-5	Miss S Barraclough	80

BETTING: 5-4 McGregor The Third, 5-2 Irish Stamp, 9-2 Its A Snip, 12-1 Shamarphil, 14-1 Cool Character, 16-1 Seasamacamile, 20-1 others

1995: MCGREGOR THE THIRD 9-10-13 B Harding (6-4 fav) G Richards 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

IRISH STAMP 4½l 2nd of 21 to Cogolin in a chase at Pardubice (4m 2f 110yd, good) with ITS A SNIP distance 3rd and FURTADO (10lb better off) a further [illegible]. MCGREGOR THE THIRD 6l 2nd of 5 to Sounds Strong in a handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). MARKETPLACE dead-heated with Satope in a 10-runner chase at Pardubice (2m 1f, good). FURTADO distance 2nd of 5 to Scaler in a chase at Bratislava (3m 1f, good). SEASAMACAMILE 24l 3rd of 9 to Keep It Zipped in a novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good). SHAMARPHIL 3½l 3rd of 6 to Bond Jnr in a handicap chase at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 110yd, heavy)

Selection: MCGREGOR THE THIRD

3.25 STAKIS CASINOS NOVEMBER NOVICES CHASE

C4

(Grade II: £11,780: 2m) (5 runners)

1	U0-2111	CELIBATE 16 (CD,F,G,S) (Stamford Bridge Partnership) C Mann 5-11-0	*R Dunwoody*	[illegible]
2	6F-2	CLIFTON GAME 23 (Ossy Enterprises) M Crannon 6-11-0	A Thornton	76
3	P06411-	HEDGEHOPPER 168 (F,G,S) (T Davis) C Weedon 8-11-0	M Richards	82
4	23034-1	LAND AFAR 29 (D,G,S) (T Ford) P Webber 9-11-0	M Dwyer	90
5	31001-1	MULLIGAN 9 (D,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 6-11-0	A Maguire	80

BETTING: 9-4 Mulligan, 5-2 Land Afar, 11-4 Celibate, 6-1 Hedgehopper, 8-1 Clifton Game.

1995: CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 7-11-0 A P McCoy (8-1) P Nicholls 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

CELIBATE beat Jenzo 2½l in novice chase over course and distance (firm). CLIFTON GAME neck 2nd of 3 to Plunder Bay in novice chase at Newbury (2m 1f good to firm). HEDGEHOPPER beat Rodeo Star 4l in handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). LAND AFAR beat Amancio 5l in 6-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m, good). MULLIGAN beat Flaming Miracle 6l in 7-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, good)

Selection: MULLIGAN

4.00 TONY WRIGHT BENEFIT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,929: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	11	NOBLE LORD 57 (F,G) (The Old Timers Partnership) R Buckler 11-12	B Powell	[illegible]
2	121	ALWAYS HAPPY 11 (D,F,G) (Knight Hawks Partnership) M Pipe 11-7	C Maude	96
3	124222	BEN BOWDEN 19 (F) (Mrs N Macey) S Woodman 11-6	A Maguire	94
4		BRANDON MAGIC 44F (R Michaelson) I Balding 11-0	R Dunwoody	–
5		SEATTLE ALLEY 153F (E & P Partnership) P Webber 11-0	J Osborne	–
6	52	SUNLEY SECURE 23 (D Allom) N Chance 11-0	R Johnson	98
7	4	TOPAGLOW 26 (Mrs J Marsh) P Dalton 11-0	T Eley	92
8	5	TRIANNA 45 (Mr J Pearce) R Brotherton 10-9	L Harvey	–

BETTING: 2-1 Brandon Magic, 9-4 Noble Lord, 4-1 Always Happy, 8-1 Ben Bowden, 10-1 Seattle Alley, Sunley Secure, 16-1 others

1995: CHICODARI 11-0 A Maguire (6-4 fav) D Nicholson 12 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
I Balding	4	18	22.2	N Williamson	20	83	24.1
D Nicholson	26	151	17.4	R Dunwoody	36	191	18.8
N Twiston-Davies	31	205	15.1	A Maguire	24	153	15.7
C Brooks	6	45	13.3	J Osborne	19	147	12.9
M Pipe	28	231	12.1	M Dwyer	7	61	11.5
F Murphy	4	35	11.4	Only qualifiers			

Jockey Club fixes date for Haydock inquiry

THE Jockey Club yesterday announced December 18 as the date for its disciplinary inquiry into the refusal of 21 jockeys to ride at Haydock last month. The meeting on October 16 was abandoned after all the jockeys in the second race refused to ride, claiming the course, pronounced safe by the stewards, was dangerous.

The inquiry date presents problems as many of the jockeys involved will be riding abroad. Frankie Dettori and Kevin Darley take up Far East engagements early next month, Brett Doyle and Gary Hind are already in Dubai, Kieren Fallon is in America and others are due to ride in India. Given the circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee today stated they were willing to hold the inquiry without the presence of those riders who may ask for the matter to be dealt with in their absence.

FONTWELL PARK TOMORROW

THUNDERER

12.20 Gloriana. 12.50 Headwind. 1.25 Matamoros. 2.00 Bally Clover. 2.35 Eulogy. 3.10 Newlands-General. 3.45 Claireswan.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.20 RICHMOND PARK CONSERVATIVE CLUB *MAIDEN HURDLE* (Div I: £2,490: 2m 2f 110yd) (11 runners)

101	4-	JAKES JUSTICE 253 J Gifford 5-11-5	P Hide
102	623-	KAIFOON 461 P Ritchens 7-11-5	B Fenton
103	0/	*LITTLE LUKE 97F P Butler 5-11-5*	T J Murphy
104	0-3	MR STRONG GALE 29 P Nicholls 5-11-5	A P McCoy
105	500-	NORDIC SPREE 10F A Moore 4-11-5	P Holley
106		OUISTI P Hedger 6-11-5	D O'Sullivan
107	/03-	SAILS LEGEND 189 J Long 5-11-5	D Gallagher
108	2-P6	TOPANGA 13 (B) J Bennett 4-11-5	D Bridgwater
109		GLORIANA 36F Lady Herries 4-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
110	R-RR	INDIAN CROWN 32 (B) N Thomson 6-11-0	S Burrough
111	000	LITTLE EMBERS 16 (V) J Bradley 4-11-0	J Power (7)

3-1 Gloriana, 7-2 Mr Strong Gale, 4-1 Jakes Justice, 8-1 Sails Legend, 10-1 Kaifoon, Ouisti, Topanga, 14-1 others.

12.50 WALBERTON NOVICES CHASE (£3,223: 2m 3f) (8)

201	-321	MR CONDUCTOR 15 (F,G) R Alner 5-11-4	A Thornton
202	U-03	FULL OF TRICKS 8 J Bridger 8-10-12	D Morris
203	6-P	MILLFRONE 22 R Rowe 6-10-12	D O'Sullivan
204	041-	OBAN 230 (G,S) Miss H Knight 6-10-12	G Bradley
205	-PF2	RAFTERS 16 (G,S) J Bradley 7-10-12	A P McCoy
206	4/0-	*VICTORY GATE 220 (G) Mrs L Jewell 11-10-12*	J Railton
207	412-	HEADWIND 214 (S) J Gifford 5-10-11	P Hide
208	2446	OUR NIKKI 8 P Rodford 6-10-7	S Burrough

6-4 Mr Conductor, 2-1 Oban, 4-1 Headwind, 9-2 Rafters, 16-1 others.

1.25 FORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,075: 2m 2f 110yd) (16)

301	60-4	MATAMOROS 65 Mrs A Perrett 4-11-13	M A Fitzgerald
302	52P-	*JONJAS CHUDLEIGH 379 (G) R Frost 9-11-6*	J Frost
303	3226	GAME DILEMMA 15 (G) J Mullins 5-11-5	O Burrows (7)
304	4U43	ROGER'S PAL 18 (G,S) A Moore 9-11-4	M Batchelor (7)
305	-65F	WATER HAZARD 15 S Dow 4-11-3	A Dicken
306	4/P-	NATIONAL FLAG 410 (V,D,S) K Burke 6-10-12	A P McCoy
307	20-0	PHARLY REEF 17 D Burchell 4-10-11	D J Burchell
308	-052	SHARP THRILL 18 (BF) B Smart 5-10-7	C Llewellyn
309	3P-F	PRECIOUS WONDER 18 P Butler 7-10-7	Mr R Thornton (5)
310	0F-6	RUTH'S GAMBLE 18 (V,D,G) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-0	D Leahy
311	005-	SPRINTFAYRE 195 (G) J Long 8-10-0	D Gallagher
312	0060	SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 21 B Pearce 4-10-0	K Gaule (3)
313	5P0	ALLEZ PABLO 18 R Rowe 6-10-0	L Aspell (3)
314	PP-0	JUST A BEAU 26 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0	Sophie Mitchell (5)
315	P0P-	KASHAN 255 (G) P Hayward 8-10-0	B Fenton
316	/3F	ASK HARRY 30 R Alner 5-10-0	D Bridgwater

9-4 Roger's Pal, 3-1 Matamoros, 5-1 Game Dilemma, 8-1 Jonjas Chudleigh, 10-1 Sharp Thrill, 12-1 Water Hazard, 14-1 Pharly Reef, 20-1 others

2.00 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,305: 3m 2f 110yd) (4)

401	1-R3	CHILDHAY CHOCOLATE 19 (CD,F) P Nicholls 8-11-10	A P McCoy
402	65P-	THE WIDGET MAN 177 (CD,F,G,S) Miss L Bower 10-11-10	P Hide
403	1-2	BALLY CLOVER 16 (G,S) Miss V Williams 9-11-5	R Farrant
404	4-4F	*SORBIERE 11 (B,D,F) N Henderson 9-11-5*	*M A Fitzgerald*

6-4 Bally Clover, 7-4 Childhay Chocolate, 7-2 Sorbiere, 8-1 The Widget Man

2.35 BET WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,782, 2m 6f 110yd) (7)

501	2P3-	EULOGY 352 R Rowe 6-12-0	D O'Sullivan
502	04-4	MOMENT OF GLORY 8 (C,G,S) D Gandolfo 5-11-13	G Bradley
503	632-	SMUGGLER'S POINT 27F (F,G) J Bridger 6-11-11	D Morris
504	4-12	KALASADI 18 (CD,BF,F) V Soane 5-11-7	M A Fitzgerald
505	P-11	BELLROI 57 (F,G) M Tompkins 5-11-6	A P McCoy
506	4-4P	FIRST CLASS 73 (F) G Alford 6-10-5	R Greene
507	U4-1	CASSIO'S BOY 16 (S) R Ecider 5-10-0	D Gallagher

9-4 Bellroi, 3-1 Eulogy, 5-1 Moment Of Glory, 6-1 Cassio's Boy, 8-1 Smuggler's Point, Kalasadi, 16-1 First Class.

3.10 WEATHERBYS 1997 DIARY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,110: 2m 2f) (5)

601	-422	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 8 (BF,G,S) P Nicholls 10-12-0	A P McCoy
602	565-	THE CARROT MAN 206 (CD,F,G) P Winkworth 8-11-6	P Hide
603	11F-	DEAR DO 191 (CD,F,G,S) N Henderson 9-11-2	M A Fitzgerald
604	1211	MILL O'THE RAGS 21 (F,G) Mrs D Haine 7-10-13	G Hogan (3)
605	3/5-	KYTTON CASTLE 422 (G,S) R Dickin 9-10-12	R Bellamy

2-1 Mill O'The Rags, 9-4 Dear Do, 11-4 Newlands-General, 8-1 Kytton Castle, 10-1 The Carrot Man.

3.45 RICHMOND PARK CONSERVATIVE CLUB MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,469 2m 2f 110yd) (11)

1	52	ADILOV 11 J Bridger 4-11-5	Sophie Mitchell (5)
2	-280	BLAZE OF OAK 9 (B) J Bradley 5-11-5	J Power (7)
3	400-	CHARTER LANE 341 Mrs L Jewell 6-11-5	D Leahy
4	4F4-	CLAIRESWAN 29F M Tompkins 4-11-5	K Gaule (3)
5	1-	DANCETILLYOUDROP 189 (G) P Nicholls 5-11-5	A P McCoy
6	4-32	FLYING FIDDLER 13 M Roberts 5-11-5	M A Fitzgerald
7	0-	I RECALL 148F P Hayward 5-11-5	B Fenton
8	/3-P	MURPHY'S RUN 52 P Eccles 6-11-5	Mr R Thornton (5)
9	4	ROSS DANCER 12 J Moore 4-11-5	J Magee (3)
10	5-52	SWAN STREET 8 C Mann 5-11-5	J Railton
11	254	SHARP ELVER 102 P Hedger 4-11-0	P Hide

5-2 Dancetillyoudrop, 7-2 Claireswan, 5-1 Swan Street, 6-1 Flying Fiddler, 8-1 Blaze Of Oak, 10-1 Adilov, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

FONTWELL PARK TOMORROW. Trainers: P Nicholls, 6 winners from 17 runners, 35.3%; R Alner, 13 from 37, 35.1%; M Tompkins, 3 from 10, 30.0%; J Gifford, 24 from 118, 20.3%; P Ritchens, 3 from 16, 18.8%; N Henderson, 5 from 27, 18.5%; J Moore, 4 from 23, 17.4%. Jockeys: D Bridgwater, 11 winners from 45 rides, 24.4%; P Hide, 20 from 83, 24.1%; G Bradley, 6 from 27, 22.2%; A P McCoy, 14 from 71, 19.7%; C Llewellyn, 6 from 35, 17.1%; D Morris, 14 from 83, 16.9%; Sophie Mitchell, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

HUNTINGDON TODAY: Trainers: K Bailey, 20 winners from 52 runners, 38.5%; D Carmilton, 3 from 10, 30.0%; D Nicholson, 11 from 41, 26.8%; J Pearce, 6 from 23, 26.1%; Mrs J Pitman, 8 from 33, 24.2%; J Gifford, 13 from 61, 21.3%. Jockeys: L P Aspell, 5 winners from 13 rides, 38.5%; P Hide, 14 from 50, 28.0%; W Marston, 9 from 42, 21.4%; D Gallagher, 6 from 35, 17.1%; M Brennan, 7 from 43, 16.3%; J A McCarthy, 4 from 27, 14.8%.

WOLVERHAMPTON TODAY: Trainers: J Gosden, 7 winners from 20 runners, 35.0%; G Bravery, 3 from 12, 25.0%; M Johnston, 42 from 171, 24.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 12 from 49, 24.5%; W Jarvis, 4 from 19, 21.1%; T Barron, 11 from 53, 20.8%; C Dwyer, 6 from 33, 18.2%. Jockeys: G Carter, 42 winners from 233 rides, 18.0%; D R McCabe, 7 from 54, 13.0%; D Holland, 9 from 72, 12.5%; T Sprake, 13 from 106, 12.3%; A Clark, 19 from 164, 11.6%; D Wright, 23 from 202, 11.4%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME TOMORROW: Fontwell Park: 12.20 Indian Crown, Little Embers, Topanga. 1.25 National Flag. 3.45 Blaze Of Oak.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm

1.15 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **DANCING VISION** (Mr J T McNamara, 4-1); 2, **Coolree** (Mr J Tizzard, 9-4 fav); 3, **Man Mood** (Mr E James, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Oscail An Doras (5th), 4 Spanish Light (pu), 11 Cropredy Lad (4th). 6 ran. 1¾l, 8l, 10l, 10l. E McNamara in Ireland. Tote: £4.00; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £5.00. CSF: £12.77.

1.50 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **HUNTING LORE** (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4); 2, **Supermodel** (Mr R Thornton, 20-1); 3, **Leap In The Dark** (A Maguire, 66-1). ALSO RAN: 8-11 fav Courbani (f), 7 Edgemoor Prince (pu), 66 Blaazing Joe (5th), Operetto (4th). 7 ran. 1¼l, 9l, 1¼l, dist. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £3.00; £1.70, £3.90. DF: £17.40. CSF: £33.83.

2.25 (2m ch) 1, **KONVEKTA KING** (J Osborne, 10-1); 2, **Southampton** (A P McCoy, 11-8 fav); 3, **Lord Dorcet** (R Dunwoody, 6-4). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Captain Khedive (4th). 4 ran. 2½l, 4l, 29l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £10.80. DF: £6.20. CSF: £22.61.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **JUST LITTLE** (C F Swan, 6-15 fav); 2, *Mim-Lou-And* (J Osborne, 9-2); 3, **Samanid** (A Maguire, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Danjing (r). 4 ran. 7l, 21l. A O'Brien in Ireland. Tote: £1.60. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.56.

3.35 (3m 1f ch) 1, **STORMTRACKER** (M Richards, 8-1); 2, **Factor Ten** (A Maguire, 15-8). ALSO RAN: 8-13 fav The Last Fling (ur), 25 Minor Key (f). 4 ran. Dist. C Weedon at Chiddingfold. Tote: £7.80. DF: £4.80. CSF: £21.48.

4.05 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **WORLD EXPRESS** (D Salter, 5-2); 2, **Ramsdens** (D Walsh, 10-11 fav); 3, **Staunch Rival** (Clare Thorner, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Stoney Valley (f). 4 ran. 7l, 12l. B Millman at Cullompton. Tote: £3.70. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.09.

Placepot: £8,426.30. Quadpot: £721.00.

Ayr

Going: good

12.25 (2m hdle) 1, **ENDOWMENT** (P Niven, 5-4 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, **Grandinare** (M Dwyer, 6-4); 3, **Bill's Pride** (A Dobbin, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Fils De Cresson (f), 10 Loveyoumillions, 20 Bowcliffe (4th), Percy Parrot (6th), 50 Smart In Socks, 100 Gallant Major (pu), Public Way (5th), 200 Grinnell. 11 ran. 3l, 27l, 3½l, 9l, 2½l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £1.50; £1.00, £1.90, £3.70. DF: £1.90. Trio: £13.20. CSF: £3.49.

12.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1, *LATIN LEADER* (D Parker, 4-1); 2, **Tall Measure** (G Cahill, 5-1); 3, **Highland Park** (C McCormack, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Skane River (4th), 13-2 Circle Boy, 8 Troy's Dream, 12 Chummy's Saga (6th), 14 Sayraf Dancer, 25 Latvian, 33 Nawtinookey (5th), We're In The Money. 11 ran. 4l, 7l, 2l, 3½l, hd. C Parker at Lockerbie. Tote: £6.10; £1.90, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £29.50. Trio: £31.60. CSF: £24.61. Tricast: £88.07.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, **CLARE MAID** (A Dobbin, 3-1); 2, **Jaunty General** (B Storey, 7-1); 3, **Fenian Court** (A S Smith, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Golf Land (6th), 3 Judicious Norman (ur), 20 Jarrow (fell), 25 Mullins (4th), 50 Aleto Racing, Dara Knight, Sunny Leith (5th). 10 ran. 4l, 2½l, 5l, 7l, 6l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £2.40, £3.60. DF: £8.40. Trio: £24.30. CSF: £22.02.

2.05 (2m ch) 1, **SPARKY GAYLE** (B Storey, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, **Bold Boss** (N Bentley, 11-2); 3, *Jack Doyle* (M Dwyer, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 jt-fav Castlelroyal (5th), 14 Devilry, 20 Uk Hygiene, 33 Bolaney Girl, Music Blitz (4th), Singing Sand, 50 Crosshot, 100 Niway (6th), 200 Fine Tune, Grand As Owl, Paint Your Wagon (ur). 14 ran. 12l, 4l, 1¾l, 7l, 1l. C Parker at Lockerbie. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £2.40, £4.50. DF: £13.00. Trio: £24.40. CSF: £12.58.

2.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **LOCHNAGRAIN** (P Niven, 4-6 fav); 2, *Huso* (S Taylor, 7-1); 3, **Pharare** (L Wyer, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 11 Palacegate King (4th), 20 Dig Deeper (5th), 25 Marchwood (6th). 6 ran. NR: Majority Major. Sh hd, 14l, 5l, 19l, 5l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £2.40. DF: £3.90. CSF: £5.93.

3.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, **MONNAIE FORTE** (J Railton, 12-1); 2, **Bells Hill Lad** (A Dobbin, 14-1); 3, **Diamond Sprite** (G Martin, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Blue Charm (f), 2 *Jymjam Johnny (4th), 10 Show Your Hand* (f), 33 See You Always (ur). 7 ran. NR: Kulula, Random Harvest, Reve De Valse. 10l, dist, dist. J Adam. Tote: £10.90; £2.50, £4.80. DF: £78.10. Trio: £54.50. CSF: £128.44. Tricast: £3,699.20.

3.45 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **TRAP DANCER** (A Dobbin, 3-1); 2, **Bold Fountain** (N Bentley, Evens fav); 3, **Phar Echo** (M Foster, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 15-2 Jigginstown, 12 Profit And Loss (pu), 25 Ainbrook (5th), Ethical Note *(6th)*, Pocaire Gaoithe (4th), 33 Smart In Satin (pu), 100 Meadowleck, Willie Wannabe. 11 ran. NR: Crashballoo. 7l, 10l, sh hd, 3l, 14l. P Monteith at Rosewell. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.00, £2.40. DF: £3.10. Trio: £15.10. CSF: £6.21.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,784.36 carried forward to Windsor today).
Placepot: £751.80. Quadpot: £92.20.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.05 (7f) 1, **Apollo Red** (Candy Morris, 6-1); 2, **Soaking** (7-2 fav); 3, **Ivor's Deed** (16-1). 11 ran. NR: Slip Jig. Nk, 4l. A Moore. Tote: £6.60; £1.20, £1.60, £3.60. DF: £9.00. Trio: £80.30. CSF: £26.68.

12.35 (5f) 1, **Kalar** (A Culhane, 12-1); 2, *Ramsey Hope* (6-1); 3, *Another Batchworth* (2-1 fav). 9 ran. NR: Mystery Matthias. 2l, ¾l. D Chapman. Tote: £14.70; £4.70, £2.30, £1.10. DF: £50.30. Trio: £14.20. CSF: £73.68. Tricast: £187.20.

1.05 (5f) 1, **Chemcast** (R Lappin, 11-1); 2, **Napier Star** (7-2 fav); 3, **Sharp Pearl** (16-1). 10 ran. Nk, 1¾l. J Eyre. Tote: £10.70; £2.50, £1.30, £3.60. DF: £31.10. Trio: £132.00. CSF: £45.43. Tricast: £577.35.

1.40 (7f) 1, **Rebuke** (S Sanders, 8-1); 2, *Ekaterini Paritsi* (6-1); 3, *Slightly Oliver* (9-4 fav). 8 ran. 3l, 3l. R Johnson Houghton. Tote: £14.10; £3.90, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £39.00. CSF: £50.57.

2.15 (7f) 1, **Deeply Vale** (S Whitworth, 7-4 fav); 2, **Barossa Valley** (12-1); 3, **Sharp 'n Smart** (13-2). 12 ran. Sh hd, 5l. G L Moore. *Tote:* £2.80; £1.30, £4.20, £1.90. DF: £48.40. Trio: £77.00. CSF: £23.11.

2.50 (1m) 1, **Double Espresso** (M Roberts, 11-8 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, **Noble Hero** (14-1); 3, **Kaiser Kache** (4-1). 9 ran. 4l, ¾l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £3.20, £1.90. DF: £17.50. Trio: £64.10. CSF: £19.88. *Tricast:* £58.43.

3.25 (1m 2f) 1, **Persuasion** (D Harrison, 8-4); 2, **Go Too Moor** (14-1); 3, **Keen Companion** (14-1). Lavender Della 11-8 fav. 9 ran. 6l, 5l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £3.00; £1.90, £3.00, £4.90. DF: £86.60. Trio: £196.10. CSF: £31.48.

3.55 (1m 4f) 1, **Hoofprints** (J Quinn, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, **Taniyer** (7-2); 3, **Our Main Man** (6-1). Stalled 3-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. 3l, 1½l. Mrs A Perrett. Tote: £3.80; £1.30, £1.90, £1.50. DF: £10.20. CSF: £13.36. Tricast: £51.51.

Placepot: £16.40 Quadpot: £6.40.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 1.15), Leicester (12.55), Plumpton (1.05)
TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.20), Newton Abbot (1.00), Wetherby (1.10)
WEDNESDAY: Haydock Park (1.10), Hereford (1.00), Kempton Park (12.50)
THURSDAY: Sedgefield (12.40), Warwick (1.20), Wincanton (1.30).
FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 1.00), Aintree (1.10), Ascot (BBC, 1.00).
SATURDAY: Aintree (BBC, 1.05), Ascot (BBC, 12.45), Catterick (1.10), Market Rasen (12.10), Towcester (1.00).

Flat meetings in bold

RAPID RACELINE

0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

CHELT'HAM	101	201
AYR	102	202
HUNT'DON	103	203
WINDSOR	104	204
W'HAMPTON	105	205

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER

1.00 Lookingforarainbow. 1.30 Belmarita. 2.00 *Lively Knight. 2.30 Elburg. 3.00 Shining Light. 3.35 Lucy Tufty.*

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.00 KIMBOLTON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,723: 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

1	35-1	MR PERCY 57 (CD,F) J Gifford 5-11-5	P Hide
2	P-PP	BABA AU RHUM 19F I Williams 4-10-12	D Gallagher
3	0/0	*CHANTRO BAY 7 J Pearce 8-10-12*	N Mann
4	0	DARING RYDE 7 (V) J Smith 5-10-12	A S Smith
5	0/	LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 35F Bob Jones 8-10-12	V Smith
6	/00-	MARTIN TOM 184F J Allen 6-10-12	Gary Lyons
7	1-	MENTMORE TOWERS 194 (F) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-12	W Marston
8		MUDLARK 12F J Norton 4-10-12	W Fry
9	5	MURPHY'S GOLD 9 R Fahey 5-10-12	R Marley
10	3234	NASHAAT 9 M Chapman 8-10-12	W Worthington
11	4	OTTAVIO FARNESE 12F A Hide 4-10-12	L Aspell (3)
12	20-2	PEACE LORD 20 (S) Mrs D Haine 6-10-12	G Hogan (3)
13	0	ROOD MUSIC 10 M Meagher 5-10-12	L Wyer
14	0-	*ROSSELL ISLAND 259 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12*	*R Johnson*
15	00-0	SCHWARTZNDIGGER 11 T Donnelly 6-10-12	J R Kavanagh
16	/3	QUAKER WALTZ 33 J Tuck 6-10-7	S McNeill
17	P	ROSSLAYNE SERENADE 20 R Weaver 5-10-7	C R Weaver (7)

9-4 Mr Percy, 4-1 Mentmore Towers, 5-1 Peace Lord, 7-1 Ottavio Farnese, 8-1 Nashaat, 10-1 Quaker Waltz, Rood Music, 12-1 others.

1.30 SOUTHOE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,548: 2m 110yd) (16)

1		ALARICO 23F I Williams 10-10	D Gallagher
2	5	EUROBOX BOY 22 A Jarvis 10-10	W Marston
3		FLINT AND STEEL 45F Bob Jones 10-10	V Smith
4	2	FLYING GREEN 63 N Walker 10-10	J A McCarthy
5	4	KINGFISHER BRAVE 10 M Meagher 10-10	L Wyer
6	F	KULSHI MOMKEN 22 J Norton 10-10	W Fry
7	F6	ROYAL THEN 10 J Neville 10-10	J R Kavanagh
8	0	SIX CLERKS 14 J Fitzgerald 10-10	F Leahy (3)
9		SOLDIER MAK 29F A Hide 10-10	P Hide
10	50	ANOTHER QUARTER 9 M Chapman 10-5	W Worthington
11		*BELMARITA 29F G Hubbard 10-5*	*R Johnson*
12		CLASSIC DAISY 145F R Spicer 10-5	E Husband (3)
13	5	FIJON 14 J Pearce 10-5	N Mann
14	30	LEBEDINSKI 14 Mrs P Sly 10-5	R Marley
15		PONTEVEDRA K Morgan 10-5	A S Smith
16		PRECIOUS ISLAND 18F P Dalton 10-5	J Supple

3-1 Flying Green, 9-2 Kingfisher Brave, 5-1 Belmarita, 6-1 Royal Then, 7-1 Pontevedra, 9-1 Soldier Mak, 10-1 others.

2.00 TOSELAND NOVICES CHASE (£2,826: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1	0123	SASSIVER 98 (D,F,G) P Kelleway 6-11-5	G Hogan (3)
2	60-P	ARR EFF BEE 150 (B,G) J Smith 9-10-12	A S Smith
3	3600	HATTA RIVER 28 (B) P Dalton 6-10-12	J Supple
4	P4-P	LETS GO NOW 17 Mrs L Jewell 6-10-12	M Brennan
5	002-	LIVELY KNIGHT 259 (G) J Gifford 7-10-12	P Hide
6	/0-	MASTER HOPE 358 D Nicholson 7-10-12	R Bellamy
7	11-1	MISTER DRUM 154 (F,G,S) M Wilkinson 7-10-12	W Marston
8	3424	RECORD LOVER 9 (F) M Chapman 6-10-12	W Worthington
9		STRONG STUFF K Bailey 6-10-12	S McNeill
10	1F1-	WILD WEST WIND 242 (G,S) Miss H Knight 6-10-12	R Johnson

5-2 Lively Knight, 3-1 Wild West Wind, 7-2 Mister Drum, 7-1 Master Hope, 8-1 Sassiver, Strong Stuff, 10-1 others.

2.30 BUSINESS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,931: 3m 2f) (6)

1	416-	ULURU 200 (CD,F,G) C Morlock 8-11-11	J R Kavanagh
2	10-0	ARITHMETIC 21 (BF,S) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-7	W Marston
3	P-31	ELBURG 8 (G) T George 6-10-10	R Johnson
4	32/	RUBINS BOY 560 (F) N Walker 10-10-0	A S Smith
5	5P-2	SINGLESOLE 9 (C,F,G,S) Mrs P Sly 11-10-0	R Marley
6	0/0	*PROVENCE 8 (F) A Carroll 9-10-0*	*D Walsh (3)*

6-4 Elburg, 3-1 Uluru, 4-1 Arithmetic, 5-1 Singlesole, 7-1 Rubins Boy, 25-1 Provence

3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£4,598: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1	-23U	CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 7 (CD,F,G) G Balding 6-11-10	B Clifford
2	102-	DENVER BAY 235 (D,S) J Gifford 9-11-8	L Aspell (3)
3	1F4-	*PURITAN 212 (B,D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 7-11-3*	*Miss P Jones*
4	3P-3	RUSTIC AIR 15 (D,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-10-8	W Dwan
5	003-	ACT OF PARLIAMENT 204 (B,D,F,G) K Bailey 8-10-7	S McNeill
6	2U5-	SHINING LIGHT 204 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 7-10-2	R Johnson
7	113-	MR PRESIDENT 219 (D,G,S) C Brooks 7-10-0	D Gallagher

2-1 Conti D'Estruval, 3-1 Denver Bay, 7-2 Mr President, 6-1 Shining Light, 7-1 Rustic Air, 10-1 Act Of Parliament, Puritan.

3.35 WILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,868: 2m 110yd) (9)

1	204-	TEJANO GOLD 238 (D,G,S) P Bradley 6-11-12	R Johnson
2	41-3	LORD MCMURROUGH 10 (S) J Neville 6-11-9	W Marston
3	13-1	MENELAVE 20 (CD,G) O Sherwood 6-11-7	J A McCarthy
4	30-5	TIM 35 (CD,F) J Jenkins 6-11-3	D Yellowlees (7)
5	105-	HENRIETTA HOWARD 196 (D,F,S) Mrs D Haine 6-11-1	G Hogan (3)
6	P00-	NAGOBELIA 185 (CD,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-10-10	N Mann
7	1510	PEGASUS BAY 14 (D,BF,F) D Cantillon 5-10-6	S McNeill
8	00-2	TANSEEQ 15 (D,F) M Magnusson 5-10-1	L Wyer
9	2F2-	LUCY TUFTY 5F (G) J Pearce 5-10-0	V Smith

7-4 Menelave, 4-1 Lord McMurrough, 9-2 Henrietta Howard, 5-1 Tejano Gold, 8-1 Tim, 10-1 Tanseeq, 12-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Colins Choice. 7.30 Hill Farm Dancer. 8.00 Tiler. *8.30 Explosive Power.* 9.00 Figlia. 9.30 Backwoods.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 7.00 **AMARYLLIS** (nap). 8.30 Mashmoum. 9.00 Le Shuttle.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 POPLAR MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,840 7f) (9 runners)

1		FIRST MAN B Llewellyn 9-0	T Williams 4
2	0	LITTLE ACORN 23 S Williams 9-0	D R McCabe 6
3	43	AMARYLLIS 19 J Gosden 8-9	A McGlone 3
4	503	*COLINS CHOICE 14 J Spearing 8-9*	*F Lynch (3) 2*
5	00	DOUBLE EIGHT 14 B Hills 8-9	J D Smith (3) 7
6	00	FLEUVE D'OR 26 D Haydn Jones 8-9	L Charnock 9
7	0	PATINA 19 R Hollinshead 8-9	D Griffiths (5) 8
8		RISSAGA C Fairhurst 8-9	D McKeown 1
9	5	STAR ENTRY 59 W Jarvis 8-9	S Sanders 5

4-7 Amaryllis, 9-2 Star Entry, 7-1 Double Eight, 8-1 Colins Choice, 16-1 Little Acorn, Patina, 20-1 others

7.30 ROWAN LIMITED GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (£2,085: 1m 4f) (5)

1	3350	*RED PHANTOM 36 (C,D,G) S Mellor 4-9-4*	M Wigham 3
2	4062	SHAFFISHAYES 11 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-4	D McKeown 4
3	0041	HILL FARM DANCER 5 (CD,F) W Brisbourne 5-9-1	R Mullen (7) 1
4	0000	WESTERN VENTURE 9 (F) R McKellar 3-8-12	T Williams 5
5	6000	CLASSIC BALLET 38 (F) R Harris 3-8-11	D Batteate 2

5-4 Shaffishayes, 2-1 Hill Farm Dancer, 5-1 Classic Ballet, 6-1 Red Phantom, 16-1 Western Venture

8.00 S J DIXONS & SONS HANDICAP (£2,801 6f) (13)

1	0403	ZIGGY'S DANCER 24 (CD,F,G) E Alston 5-10-0	S Drowne 2
2	0002	TILER 11 (D,F,S) M Johnston 4-9-12	D Holland 11
3	0100	SADDLEHOME 11 (C,D,F,G,S) T Easterby 7-9-10	D McKeown 10
4	3000	PORTEND 35 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 4-9-8	C Teague (3) 1
5	0505	NAISSANT 14 (D,G,S) R McKellar 5-9-3	T Williams 7
6	4020	TART AND A HALF 56 (F) B Meehan 4-9-2	M Tebbutt 13
7	0321	*IMPOSING TIME 28 (B,CD,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-1*	S Sanders 3
8	0260	PRIMA SILK 11 (D,F,G) M Ryan 5-9-0	A Clark 4
9	0100	GARNOCK VALLEY 11 (B,D,F,G,S) J Berry 6-9-0	G Carter 5
10	1000	DIECI ANNO 9 (F) B Palling 3-8-7	T Sprake 9
11	6000	CASTLEREA LAD 11 (D,F) R Hollinshead 7-8-6	F Lynch (3) 12
12	6100	STEAL 'EM 84 (F) A Bailey 3-8-6	D Wright 6
13	0042	NIGHT HARMONY 28 Miss S Wilton 3-8-0	D R McCabe 8

3-1 Imposing Time, 5-1 Tiler, 6-1 Ziggy's Dancer, 7-1 Tart And A Half, 8-1 Saddlehome, 10-1 Garnock Valley, 12-1 others

8.30 ESSENCE OF TIME ANTIQUE CLOCKS HANDICAP (£2,814: 1m 100yd) (13)

1	3203	SUPER HIGH 24 (B,CD,G) P Howling 4-10-0	D Holland 7
2	3004	DUKE VALENTINO 50 (D,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-11	D Griffiths (5) 3
3	6600	MAPLE BAY 7 (CD,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-11	G Faulkner (5) 9
4	041	MASHMOUM 19 (G) J Gosden 3-9-11	A McGlone 11
5	0511	ABSOLUTE MAGIC 9 (D,F,G,S) W Haggas 6-9-11	F Lynch (3) 6
6	5630	*NORTH REEF 5 (D,G,S) J Pearce 5-9-7*	M Wigham 12
7	4300	ASHGORE 18 (C,F,G) J Eyre 6-9-7	T Williams 5
8	5100	DARYABAD 48 (D,F,G) T Naughton 4-9-6	J D Smith (3) 13
9	0550	JUST HARRY 19 (C,D,F,G) M Ryan 5-9-6	A Clark 8
10	3220	*BENTICO 17 (CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-6*	*C Teague (3) 10*
11	0040	SO AMAZING 140 (D,G) J Eyre 4-9-5	S Buckley (7) 2
12	0062	EXPLOSIVE POWER 24 (C,G) G Bravery 5-9-4	D R McCabe 4
13	0300	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 18 (B,C,F,G) J Leigh 5-9-4	D McKeown 1

5-2 Absolute Magic, 3-1 Mashmoum, 7-1 Super High, So Amazing, 8-1 Explosive Power, 10-1 Maple Bay, 12-1 others

9.00 PLYVINE CATERING SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,085: 5f) (10)

1	0234	TINKER'S SURPRISE 9 (B,D,G) J Balding 9-2	N Carlisle 1
2	4306	FIT FOR THE JOB 42 W G M Turner 8-11	D Sweeney (7) 5
3	000	MASTER FOLEY 42 N Littmoden 8-11	T G McLaughlin 6
4	0056	SPARKLING EDGE 9 (F) C Dwyer 8-11	D R McCabe 10
5	0000	CANTSAYNOWT 9 (B) R McKellar 8-6	T Williams 3
6	3035	ENCHANTICA 4 J Berry 8-6	G Carter 7
7	5602	FIGLIA 8 (B) C Booth 8-6	L Charnock 8
8	3206	LE SHUTTLE 9 M Tompkins 8-6	R Mullen (7) 4
9	60	MISS DARLING 4 J Akehurst 8-6	S Sanders 9
10	4000	MUNICIPAL GIRL 5 B Palling 8-6	T Sprake 2

7-4 Figlia, 9-4 Enchantica, 6-1 Le Shuttle, 8-1 Tinker's Surprise, 10-1 Sparkling Edge, 14-1 Fit For The Job, 16-1 others

9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (£2,085 1m 6f 166yd) (10)

1	0110	BACKWOODS 18 (CD,G) W Brisbourne 5-10-0	A Garth 5
2	3550	CODE RED 78 W Muir 5-9-7	J Wilkinson (7) 1
3	0643	SOMMERSBY 56 (C,G) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-6	C Teague (3) 6
4	0106	HIGHFIELD FIZZ 9 (F,G) C Fairhurst 4-9-1	L Charnock 10
5	4500	CLASSIC AFFAIR 23 (F) R Harris 3-9-0	D Batteate 4
6	2-00	ROUSITTO 14 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-0	D Griffiths (5) 9
7	5542	SHARP COMMAND 5 P Eccles 3-8-12	D Holland 7
8	4100	HAVANA HEIGHTS 9 (F) J Eyre 3-8-9	T Williams 5
9	0250	ROSE OF GLENN 14 (F,G) B Palling 5-8-9	T Sprake 2
10	5200	WHAT JIM WANTS 26 J J O'Neill 3-8-7	D R McCabe 3

5-2 Backwoods, 4-1 Sommersby, 6-1 Sharp Command, 7-1 Havana Heights, 8-1 Code Red, Highfield Fizz, Rousitto, 12-1 others

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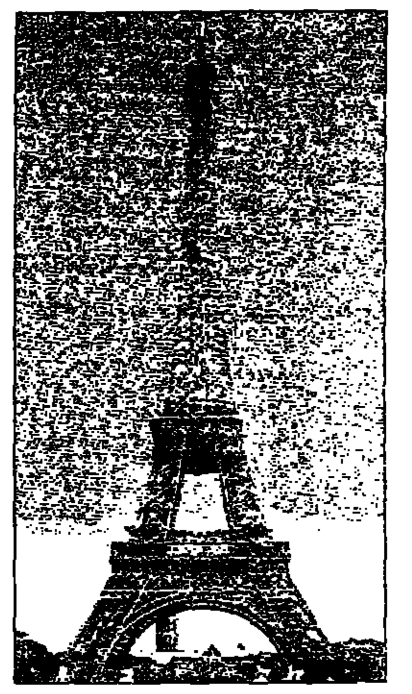

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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY UNION

Bath ready for fiery reception in Cardiff

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THE prospect today of vibrant European competition does much to remove the stale sense of failure that this week has emanated from the administration of English rugby. That the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and its clubs has spilled over into other areas has been detrimental to the game's image and the organisers of the Heineken Cup must ensure that their competition does not go the same way.

European competition is the future for the game in the northern hemisphere, but, as three French clubs, three English and two Welsh prepared for the knockout phase, a spokesman for the sponsor issued a warning to administrators. "I hope the clubs don't go to a league straightaway in Europe," Jolyon Armstrong said. "They can use this tournament to test future concepts, but our early experiences have demonstrated not only the potential but the pitfalls of rushing into a pan-European league."

Rob Andrew, who retired from the international stage after taking over as director of rugby at Newcastle last year, has been invited to play for the Barbarians against Australia at Twickenham on December 7.

Heineken's tolerance of rugby's shortcomings has been remarkable: at one stage, the company was a whisper away from following ITV and deserting the competition, which, in Armstrong's words, "needs the administration to match the perception the players have of the tournament."

Today, at least, English supporters will get a glimpse on television of what they have been missing. While BBC Wales shows Cardiff against Bath, the second half of the Leicester versus Harlequins tie will be shown live on *Grandstand*, while French viewers will have a double helping of Dax versus Toulouse today and Brive against Llanelli tomorrow. However, the late entry of the BBC only shows how much work remains to be done in renegotiating the rights for future tournaments.

The winner of the game at Leicester will meet the victor from Dax, which leaves the possibility elsewhere of an all-Welsh semi-final. The atmosphere in Cardiff has been welling towards international proportions, buoyed by Bath's record of failure in the Welsh capital. In 70 years, they have won only once and though they have been far more consistent over the last decade than Cardiff, the Welsh club has a habit of coming good when it matters.

Only Jamie Ringer, the open-side flanker, lacks international experience, while Bath, who faltered in Pontypridd last month, have made eight changes from the XV beaten in the Courage Clubs Championship by Northampton last week. That includes the hooker, where Gareth Adams has joined Graham Dawe on the casualty list, leaving Gary French to oppose the Wales captain, Jonathan Humphreys.

If the whiff of Wales versus England is in the air, then two giants of the English game meet at Welford Road, with Andy Keast, the Harlequins coach, frank about the shortcomings of his club in recent defeats by Brive and Sale: "We created four clear-cut chances against Brive that we did not take and, at that level, if you do not finish, you lose the game."

Leicester have their own shortcomings, but, so far, they have taken everything Europe can throw at them: "I think we are a long way from being able to win the competition, but we don't have to win it just yet," Bob Dwyer, their coach, said. "I hope we will be ready when the crunch games come along." Now that day has arrived and Neil Back returns to the back row, with Stuart Potter fit to play centre against the combination of Will Carling and Gary Connolly.

Toulouse travel to Dax, whom they have already beaten in the French championship this season, albeit only 14-13, and Brive take on a Llanelli team heartened by the return to their pack of the Jones boys, Rhys and Iwan.

Spare a thought for Northampton, who challenge the French monopoly of the European Conference. Tim Rodber has recovered from a gashed leg to lead them against Narbonne, one of eight internationals in what will be a fiery encounter. Jonathan Bell returns from a disappointing Ireland midweek international, while one of his victorious Western Samoan opponents, Va'aiga Tuigamala, plays for Wasps in their postponed league meeting with London Irish.

DAVE ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Howley, playing here against Toulouse, finds ample time to execute the scrum half's tasks with relaxed ease

Purpose-built Howley worthy of a place among the great scrum halves

Gerald Davies warns that Bath dare not underestimate the Cardiff and Wales No 9

Robert Howley, after only one season of international rugby, which began against England last February, is already a world-class scrum half; so much so that his opponents are now persuaded to make him a primary target. If they are to have a chance of success, they must design an individual plan not only to inhibit his freedom but also to neutralise his force for mischief. Bath, in their preparation for the match against Cardiff today, will have been busy all week with their ideas for thwarting him.

Half an eye might be thought to be enough to set against the scrum half who interprets his role as subordinate to his partner outside him; the flanker may soon wish to meander off elsewhere. This can never be the case with Howley. He is not in the habit of giving them a choice. Those on both flanks need to pay him full and unblinking attention.

Sufficient evidence has accumulated to suggest that to ignore him for a complacent moment is to risk a riposte of punishing and triumphant accuracy. He invariably scores. He he has done so six times in Cardiff's four pool games in the Heineken Cup.

To begin with, there is his unmistakable strength. Last season, in a brief television profile, he was seen, bare-chested, shifting weights in the training room. His frame had the sharply defined contours of an extract from an Ordnance Survey map: the dips and rises were all in the right place and hugely formidable. Here is a Welsh player fit for the modern game and its incipient professionalism.

"I have been weight training for some six or seven years," Howley said. "The physical dimensions are important, but are often lacking in Welsh players. Individual strength is vital in so competitive a sport."

> 'Those on both flanks need to pay attention'

With his sidestep and flourishing swerves, he is capable of beating a man in a one-to-one confrontation. This is because of the amount of seven-a-side rugby that he has played since coming under the tutelage of Keith Crockett, his mentor at Brynteg Comprehensive School and later at Swansea University.

"Sevens encourages you to take players on," Howley, 26 and 13st 7lb, said. "There is so much space and, if you succeed in doing so against faster men in the open field, then this gives confidence to do so at 15-a-side."

His speed off the mark has played a vital role in many of his tries and, if he valued scoring on his debut at Twickenham, it is the try against France, and the pace which brought it about, that he cherishes most. It brought Wales their only victory of the five nations' championship last season.

He can read a good game as he did recently against Milan when Cardiff, in foul weather, were attempting to play a style that hardly suited the difficult conditions. When things seemed to be falling apart in midfield, he took control.

"More and more, under the new laws," he said, "with a flanker having to stay down at the scrum, it is the scrum half who has to take most of the sudden decisions."

Of course, the other essentials are there. He kicks well, he passes accurately. He plays superbly — sometimes masterfully.

One thing more needs to be added. Because of his speed and athletic agility, he plays his role differently to anybody else playing at present. This was apparent in Cardiff's match against Wasps. His second try came from determination and strength when he dived over and through a mêlée of players close to the line. Many others could have done the same.

The first try, however, began near the halfway line. Astutely, he read the moment and ran on the blind side of the loose scrum. His speed off the mark took him beyond the first line of defence. In the second part of the move, he had the full back to beat. With a shimmy, he did so. Then, to round off a spectacular run, he maintained his pace and power to cross the line.

Other scrum halves might have accomplished the first two sections of this sequence, but precious few would have completed it. There is an all-round ability that other scrum halves do not possess.

Thus Robert Howley has the potential to stand apart from the rest of his kind and to score tries to which we can exclaim: "No one else could have done that." That should concern Bath this afternoon.

Still mad keen to jump with nowhere to land

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

AT LONG last, this column can return to its principal preoccupation, which is to support and succour the most important sporting enterprise in Britain. Beauty, joy, ambition and a soupçon of madness: surely the sport of ski-jumping is perfection itself.

For long and weary years, this column has plotted the struggle of the British Ski Federation to establish a ski-jump in this country. Easier, far easier, to win planning permission for a nuclear power station or an eight-lane highway than to set up a beacon of daring for Britain's youth.

Hopes had been high for an entire national Nordic ski centre at Sheffield Ski Village, but these foundered upon the need for a wild gamble on a £15,000 feasibility study. British ski-jumping is many things, but rich is not one of them. There have long been hopes of establishing a ski-jumping hill at Hillend in Edinburgh, as reported in this column since 1992. The project is still — yes, still — pending, and will shortly "come up for review".

But ski-jumpers are nothing if not crazy, and they are battling on quixotically on a number of fronts. There are, for example, hopes for "a great ski-jumping exhibition in the West Country in the fairly near future." Oh, and Dunstan Odeke, old friend of this column and of British ski-jumping, is in training and hoping to jump for his native Uganda at the Winter Olympics in Nagano in 1998.

One day he hopes we'll have the real thing
Mothsband

Heady days

There is a game, poised uneasily between cricket and baseball, that is called one-day cricket. The fact is that the game really is quite a lot like cricket when you come to think about it. It has its primary existence in the form of the one-day international, and this was a record year. The previous best was 97 matches in 1994, but the world scored its first century when India took on Australia in Bangalore last month, and, by the time the year ends, 1996 will have given us 125 one-day internationals.

As a point of comparison, the first ten years after the sport was invented (when England took on Australia in Melbourne in 1971) gave us a grand total of 103 matches.

This year there have been one-dayers in Toronto (India v Pakistan) and Nairobi (Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Africa) and Kuala Lumpur had a tournament featuring Japan, Thailand and Papua New Guinea. There is talk of a competition in Peking. England, however, plan to concentrate their energies on a rather more interesting game known by the singular name of cricket. They will play just eight one-dayers in 1997.

We really need a new name for this other really-not-bad game that cricketers play so well. Any suggestions?

Struck by nerves

Faithful readers will remember the (male) Italian footballer who responded to his sending-off by kissing the (female) referee. But when Melania Biancalana, a female ref aged 25, gave a penalty in the Tuscan league match between Tempora and Lucignano, the response was less courtly. With Tempora a goal down and chasing the game, Signorina Biancalana blew for a penalty against them, which was converted.

Silvio Giannini, 40, a Tempora director, was sitting on the bench because the manager was playing. He rushed onto the field in fury and punched poor Melania in the face. He has subsequently been banned from football for three years "for entering the field unjustifiably, for hitting the referee and inflicting notable pain and momentary visual disturbance." A fellow-director said: "Giannini is a good person. He didn't mean to cause any harm even if he went over the top. But he had stopped smoking only a few days earlier, and it may be that he was too nervous."

Fit for dinner

My heart regularly bleeds for poor golfers. I mean, all that physical exertion! All that non-stop action! So it was no surprise that, back in September, Tiger Woods was forced to pull out of a dinner in his honour before a competition at Pine Mountain, Georgia, saying that he was "exhausted".

Saving himself for the action? Well, no, actually. Woods, the latest sporting love-object and instant millionaire, "the Michael Jordan of golf" (will the ghetto kids all start wearing nailed golf shoes, I wonder?) was not playing at all. All the action required of him was to reach out and pick up his award, and then go to bed. Woods is a sadder, wiser and more media-aware man these days. "My actions were wrong," he said this week, before going in comparative humility to the rescheduled bash.

Mots justes

Phrase-maker of the week: David Lloyd, the England cricket coach, summing up his captain, Mike Atherton, and his famous 185 not out in Johannesburg in the *Benson and Hedges Cricket Year Book*: "Atherton's epic effort, spanning nearly 11 hours at the crease, plumbed the bowels of endurance, concentration and sheer bloody-mindedness for the cause. Anyone with any criticism of the lad are just anonymous outsiders who cannot possibly know him."

Australians possess strength to turn on action replay

From Karl Johnston
in Dublin

THAT Ulster have to face a team that approximates to the Australia international XV at Ravenhill today is sufficiently daunting in itself. That they must do so without David Humphreys and Jeremy Davidson, the London Irish pair who will be on Courage Clubs Championship duty against Wasps, makes the challenge all the more formidable.

Sporting history seems to be repeating itself, for the last time these opponents met, a little more than four years ago, 13 of the players that lined up against Ulster went on to help demolish Ireland in the international match a week later, a scenario that seems likely to be repeated.

Today Ulster are pitted against a side that shows only three changes from the Australia team that saw off Scotland a week ago. The alterations hardly weaken the Australians. Swapping David Campese for Pat Howard, George Gregan for Sam Payne and Michael Brial for Owen Finegan is not likely to ease the Ulster burden.

Denis McBride, the Ulster captain, who is hoping to have recovered from a mouth wound sustained against Western Samoa, may take heart from a valiant display in similar circumstances in 1992. Ulster lost 35-11, but played with considerably more spirit than Ireland managed seven days later.

Eight players from that match will again be in opposition today. Mark McCall, Maurice Field, Paddy Johns and Stephen McKinty are once more in the Ulster line-up, while the Australians returning to Ravenhill are Tim Horan, John Eales, David Wilson and Campese.

Tony Russ, the Ulster director of rugby, will not be under any illusions about the difficulty of the task that awaits his team, but he can look back on some encouraging displays this season after running the eventual champions, Munster, close in the Guinness interprovincial championship.

Clearly, Australia are strong favourites, though they will underestimate Ulster tenacity and determination at their peril. Incentives will not be lacking for the home team and the fact that the Ireland XV for the international next Saturday is being announced tomorrow will not be lost on the industrious McCall, for one.

ULSTER: R Morrow (Queen's University); J Topping (Ballymena), M Field (Malone), M McCall (Dungannon), J Cunningham (Dublin University), S Laing (Portadown), A Matchett (Portadown); R Mackey (Malone), S Ritchie (Ballymena), G Leslie (Dungannon), S Duncan (Malone), G Longwell (Ballymena), P Johns (Saracens), D McBride (Malone, captain), S McKinty (Bangor). Replacements: R Irwin (Ballymena), A Adair (Instonians), J Patterson (Dungannon), R Wilson (Instonians), N McCluskey (Queen's University), N Doak (Malone).

AUSTRALIA XV: M Burke (NSW); D Campese (NSW), D Herbert (Queensland), T Horan (Queensland), J Roff (ACT), D Knox (ACT), G Gregan (ACT); R Harry (NSW), M Foley (Queensland), A Blades (NSW), M Brial (NSW), W Waugh (NSW), J Eales (Queensland, captain), D Wilson (Queensland), D Manu (NSW). Replacements: R Tombs (NSW), S Payne (NSW), A Heath (NSW), M Caputo (ACT).

CRICKET

Giles limits Academy recovery

DEAN HEADLEY may have won most of the plaudits, but Ashley Giles, the Warwickshire left-arm spinner, is also making a big impact in the early weeks of the England A tour of Australia (a Special Correspondent writes).

He brought his haul of wickets to 14 in three four-day matches yesterday with a return of four for 63 against the Australian Cricket Academy, who were dismissed for 258 on the opening day of the match in Mount Gambier.

Adam Hollioake, who elected to field, appeared to have made the right decision as the Academy slipped to 34 for three inside the opening 20 overs. Michael Dighton and Shawn Craig then added 125 runs in a fourth-wicket partnership to put their side on course for a respectable first-innings total, only for Giles to intervene decisively either side of the tea interval.

His quicker ball, which he describes as his "most potent weapon", accounted for Craig, who was bowled for 61, an innings that included seven boundaries, while Dighton, who had been missed at slip off Glen Chapple when 36, reached 72 before he went leg-before.

Giles, who was well supported by Peter Such, brought the innings to a close by having Paul Sutherland caught behind in the final over of the day, the last seven wickets falling for 99 runs.

The Academy coach, Rodney Marsh, said he had been impressed with the enthusiasm of the English team. "The spinners, in particular, bowled well and there look to be some very good players here, which is a hopeful sign for England in the future," he said.

☐ Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, took three wickets for 20 runs in eight overs to inspire his team's 41-run victory over New Zealand in the final of the Singer Champions' Trophy in Sharjah yesterday.

Akram's performance enabled Pakistan to make a successful defence of a meagre total of 160. Mark Greatbach looked likely to win the game for New Zealand when he reached 50 off 80 balls but was dismissed trying to sweep a ball from Mushtaq Ahmed.

[redacted]

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY: *First innings*

M Dighton lbw b Giles	72
J Cassell c and b Harris	2
A Cameldine c Ealham b Such	13
*J Poole c Hollioake b Giles	3
S Craig b Giles	61
A Smith c and b Such	23
D Thornley lbw b Harris	28
†E Haddin c Ealham b Chapple	13
I Hewett not out	12
D Nash run out	21
P Sutherland c Hegg b Giles	0
Extras (b 6, lb 4, nb 2)	12
Total	258

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-28, 3-34, 4-159, 5-164, 6-200, 7-221, 8-225, 9-257.

BOWLING: Chapple 18-4-68-1; Harris 10-2-28-2; Such 35-9-72-2; Giles 24.4-9-63-4; Ealham 5-1-17-0.

ENGLAND A: M A Butcher, M P Vaughan, J E R Gallian, O A Shah, *A J Hollioake, M A Ealham, †W K Hegg, A F Giles, G Chapple, A J Harris, P M Such.

Umpires: A Hunter and K Russell.

Scoreboard, page 51

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TENNIS: HENMAN AND RUSEDSKI MOVE RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS ANOTHER FINAL ENCOUNTER

Wood tumbles to Taylor's tenacity

BY ALIX RAMSAY

LIFE, so they say, is what you make it. For those on the way up, every little step on the ladder is an achievement, something to be enjoyed, to be celebrated and, if your luck holds, repeated in the near future. For those who have already made it, the constant repetition puts success in a different light. Take Tim Henman and Claire Taylor, for example.

Yesterday, at the Guardian Direct British national championships, Taylor made her way into the final for the first time, beating Clare Wood, the defending champion, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5. In the overall scheme of things, the victory did her no good. There are no world-ranking points on offer, the prize-money is paltry compared with the rich pickings on the Women's Tennis Association tour, while to become the British women's champion does not merit a huge entry in the curriculum vitae.

No matter: Taylor was delighted. This time last year, she lost to Wood, the former British No 1, in the first round, so another crack offered Taylor the chance to prove herself. It was not the greatest of matches, by any means. With 14 breaks of service, the most consistent aspect of each player's game was her ability to give up the ghost. However, Taylor stuck to it, fought back from 5-3 down in the third set and shrieked and squealed her way to victory.

Taylor has obviously been reading the instruction manuals on how to become a professional sportsman and has the patter mastered. She is feeling good about the way she is playing, she takes each point as it comes — in fact, she was concentrating so hard on the point in hand that she had no idea that she was losing in the final set. There is a lot that escapes Taylor when she is thinking about tennis.

The fact that she grunts as she plays came as a surprise. "I don't know how loud I am, I just want to hit the ball so hard my opponent can't get it back," she said. The constant banter with herself and the crowd just "sort of happened" over the past couple of weeks. "If I've done something bad, I have to tell myself, and if I do something well, I have to congratulate myself," she offered as the only explanation.

Even the fact that she spends hours commuting from her home in Banbury to the see her coach, Leighton Alfred, in Nottingham, does not bother her. "I get in my car, whack on the music and forget I'm driving," she said.

Contemplation does not feature large in Taylor's life, but she more than makes up for it in enthusiasm. "I'm just so pumped up when I'm on court," she said.

Taylor plays Julie Pullin in the final today. Pullin, another recent recruit to the Alfred coaching fold, put paid to Lucie Ahl's hopes, winning 6-1, 6-4. She sped through the first set, but then faltered slightly in the second, missing six match points before she could secure the victory.

Henman, however, seldom looks enthused about anything. An awfully English young man, he gives self-control a whole new meaning. Yesterday, he waltzed past Nick Gould 6-1, 6-3 to meet Chris Wilkinson in the semi-final today. Armed with a new racket, he is making his way towards his scheduled appointment with Greg Rusedski in the final tomorrow.

"It's a healthy rivalry between us," Henman said. "In the previous two matches, I'm sure he hasn't enjoyed losing and sure, I'm keen to win. I'd very much like to win the tournament, but, if I don't, I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. I'm fairly relaxed about it." Life at the top can do that for you.

Rusedski, meanwhile, was happy enough to have walloped Tom Spinks 6-3, 6-0, but the brave new dawns of British tennis came unstuck. Jamie Delgado, once tipped as a hope for the future, threw away an early chance to beat Chris Wilkinson and lost 2-6, 6-0, 9-7, while Andrew Richardson, tipped for greatness by Rusedski a couple of days ago, was beaten by Paul Robinson, 1-6, 7-6, 9-7.

Results, page 51

Taylor winds up a forehand during her semi-final victory over Wood yesterday. Photograph: Gary Prior/Allsport

GOLF: STEADY PUTTING GIVES BRITON SHARE OF THE LEAD WITH OZAKI IN PHOENIX TOURNAMENT

Westwood progresses along the right lines

Westwood: impressive

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN MIYAZAKI, JAPAN

LEE WESTWOOD, a young man at the beginning of his career, continued to share top billing with the more established names after the second round of the Dunlop Phoenix tournament on the southern island of Kyushu here yesterday.

Out in 32, four under par, Westwood wobbled a little coming home but still managed a round of 68, three under, to share the lead with Jumbo Ozaki on 135, one shot ahead of Tom Watson.

Westwood showed no sign of being overawed by the company he was keeping and it is to his advantage that he has something that Watson, a golfing legend, and Ozaki, Japanese celebrity, covet beyond riches and titles. The Englishman, 23, has a putting stroke to die for, a solidity over the knee-knocking three and four-footers that the other two men, who are both in their late forties, realise they have lost for ever.

"Lee is a very good putter," Ozaki, who is seeking to win his third successive Dunlop title and bring up a century of tour victories, said. "I'm impressed." And envious.

On another sunny day, a faint westerly breeze and tricky pin positions made the course more difficult and Westwood felt he had not played as well as the day before. "I tended to hole more putts for par than for birdie," he said, although he managed three birdies in a row from the long 7th.

Tom Lehman, the Open champion, recorded a total of 134, a tournament record, to win the 36-hole PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Hawaii.

Lehman started the final round of nine holes with a one-stroke lead over Nick Faldo, and Steve Jones. He birdied the 10th to open a two-stroke gap that he held to the end.

Catriona Matthew and Laura Davies struggled to maintain their form as Jane Crafter took the lead after the second round of the Australian Ladies' Masters on the Gold Coast. Crafter shot a 65 for a total of 134 and a two-stroke lead over Matthew. Davies was a shot further back.

Great Britain were in sixth place after two rounds of the men's world amateur team championship in the Philippines. Australia lead Canada and Finland by nine strokes.

Scores, page 51

IN BRIEF

Path clear for global competition to start

THE Super League's final legal victory yesterday, after its 40-month court battle with the Australian Rugby League (ARL), means that the world club championship, involving all 22 Super League clubs in England, France, Australia and New Zealand, will start next summer (Christopher Irvine writes).

The last legal avenue open to the ARL to contest the Super League's recent victory in the Federal Court in Sydney was blocked when three judges in the High Court of Australia denied the ARL leave to appeal. As a result, the ten-team Super League in Australasia will run in direct competition to the 12 teams in the ARL Premiership next year.

The world club championship will be launched in Leeds on Wednesday as the most ambitious international club competition in sporting history. The 11 English Super League clubs and Paris Saint-Germain are expected to play at least three matches at home against Australasian sides and three more in Australia and New Zealand during breaks in the domestic Super League calendar.

Repeat final

Rugby union: The Celtic Barbarians will meet New Zealand in the final of the World Rugby Classic for the fourth successive year in Bermuda today. Three tries from Keith Crossan, the former Ireland wing, helped the Barbarians to a 38-19 victory over Canada in the semi-finals yesterday.

Hat-trick bid

Rowing: Peter Haining will be aiming for a third successive win in the Thames World Sculling Challenge from Putney to Mortlake today when his rivals will be Karsten Nielsen, of Denmark, and Merlin Vervoorn, of Holland.

Steelers lose

Ice hockey: Sheffield Steelers made a disappointing start to their European Cup semi-final round in Hameenlinna, Finland, yesterday, when they led 4-1 in their opening match against the Norwegian champions, Storhamar, but lost 7-5.

EQUESTRIANISM

Chesney returns home in triumph

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN MILLSTREET, CO CORK

JESSICA CHESNEY, making a rare visit to her native Ireland, was a popular winner of the opening international class here yesterday on the French-bred stallion Laudatus, a newcomer to her German-based string. It was her first success at the show since her euphoric victory on Diamond Exchange in the inaugural Irish Volvo World Cup qualifier in 1992.

In a breathtaking display against the clock, Chesney, who moved to Germany two years ago because "there weren't the opportunities in Ireland", completed the 12-fence course nearly six seconds ahead of the runner-up, Anton Martin Bauer, of Austria, on Remus Equo.

"He's a very fast and careful horse but he's still inexperienced," Chesney said of the 11-year-old Laudatus, who is owned by her sponsor, Gerd Kraft, of the St Ludwig stud in Germany. Britain's best finisher was Michael Whitaker, who took fourth place on Ashley, his 1995 Wembley Foxhunter winner, which he rides in the Volvo World Cup qualifier tonight.

William Funnell also confirmed the form of his leading horse, Comex, for the event tonight when he took seventh place with a stylish clear round. Nick Skelton, in common with many of the riders in the class, used the event as a schooling round but still managed tenth place on Tinka's Boy. "He's only seven and I don't want to push him unnecessarily," Skelton said.

No warm-up class is necessary for Skelton's mount tonight, Dollar Girl, the winner of the 1994 Millstreet qualifier and 1995 World Cup. "She's 16 now and there's no point wasting her energy in smaller classes. She's not the spooky type so she can go straight into the big events," he said. Skelton disclosed yesterday that the mare, on which he has won £605,000 since he took her over from Thomas Fuchs, the Swiss rider, in 1992, is near to retirement. "I don't want to drop her down a level, so the day that she can't do it any more at the top she'll stop," he said.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket match
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Aston Villa v Leicester
(2) Blackburn v Chelsea
(3) Everton v Southampton
(4) Leeds v *Liverpool*
(5) Manchester United v Arsenal
(6) *Newcastle v West Ham*
(7) Tottenham v Sunderland
(8) Wimbledon v Coventry

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	12	9	0	3	23	13	27
Arsenal	12	7	4	1	24	10	25
Wimbledon	12	7	2	3	22	13	23
Liverpool	11	7	2	2	20	11	23
Chelsea	12	6	4	2	21	17	22
Man Utd	12	5	4	3	23	19	19
A Villa	12	5	3	4	15	11	18
Tottenham	12	5	2	5	12	11	17
Everton	11	4	4	3	12	12	16
Sheff Wed	12	4	4	4	13	17	16
Derby	12	3	5	4	12	14	14
West Ham	12	4	2	6	11	16	14
Leicester	12	4	2	6	9	15	14
Southampton	12	3	4	5	21	17	13
Middlesbro	12	3	4	5	17	21	13
Sunderland	12	3	4	5	9	14	13
Leeds	12	4	1	7	11	18	13
Coventry	12	1	6	5	5	15	9
Nottm F	12	1	5	6	10	20	8
Blackburn	12	1	4	7	10	16	7

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Bolton v Crystal Palace
(10) Bradford v Ipswich
(11) Grimsby v *Stoke*
(12) Norwich v Reading
(13) Oxford United v Huddersfield
(14) Port Vale v Sheffield United
(15) *Portsmouth v Manchester City*
(16) *Queens Park Rangers v Charlton*
(17) Southend v West Bromwich
(18) Swindon v Barnsley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	17	11	4	2	38	23	37
C Palace	17	9	6	2	39	13	33
Norwich	17	9	4	4	28	17	31
Barnsley	16	8	6	2	30	19	30
Sheff Utd	15	8	4	3	31	17	28
Wolvrhmptn	17	7	5	5	22	17	26
* Tranmere	17	7	4	6	25	20	25
Oxford Utd	17	7	4	6	23	15	25
Swindon *	16	7	2	7	24	19	23
Stoke	15	6	5	4	22	26	23
Port Vale	18	5	8	5	17	20	23
QPR	18	5	7	6	20	24	22
Huddersfld	16	5	5	6	20	24	20
Portsmth	18	5	5	8	20	24	20
West Brom	17	4	8	5	20	25	20
Birmingham	15	5	5	5	18	18	20
Southend	18	4	8	6	19	28	20
Ipswich	17	4	7	6	21	24	19
Man City	16	6	1	9	18	24	19
Reading	16	5	3	8	19	27	18
Charlton	14	5	2	7	14	21	17
* Oldham	18	3	6	9	19	23	15
Bradford	18	3	5	10	14	32	14
Grimsby	17	3	4	10	18	36	13

* not including last night's match

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Baldock; Burton v Sittingbourne; Cambridge City v Crawley; *Chelmsford v Dorchester*; Hastings v Halesowen; King's Lynn v Newport AFC; Salisbury v Gloucester. Midland division: Dudley Town v Redditch; *Evesham v Rothwell*; Grantham v Bedworth; Hinckley Town v *Solihull Boro*; Moor Green v Paget R; RC Warwick v VS Rugby; Stourbridge v Ilkeston; Sutton Coldfield Town v Raunds T; Tamworth v Bilston. *Southern division:* Dartford v Forest Green; Fisher London v Witney; Havant v *Fareham*; Margate v Buckingham Town; Newport (IoW) v Cinderford; Tonbridge Angels v Fleet T; Trowbridge v St Leonards; *Waterlooville* v Cirencester Town; Weston-super-Mare v Erith and *Belvedere*; Weymouth v Clevedon; Yate v Bashley.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Guiseley; Bamber Bridge v Leek; Gainsborough, Bishop Auckland v Buxton; Chorley v Blyth Spartans v *Buxton*; Chorley v Spennymoor; Emley v Barrow; Knowsley v Witton; *Marine v Lancaster*; Winsford v Accrington Stanley. First division: *Bradford* Pk Ave v Ashton United; Curzon Ashton v Workington; Droylsden v Atherton LR; Eastwood Town v Netherfield; Gretna v *Warrington*; Harrogate Town v Flixton; Leigh v Lincoln United; Matlock Town v Farsley Celtic; Radcliffe v Congleton; Whitley Bay v Worksop.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Lancing v *Etonians* v Foresters; Carthusians.

FA Cup
First round

(19) Ashford v Dagenham and Red
(20) Blackpool v Wigan
(21) Boreham Wood v Rushden and D
(—) Boston v Morecambe
(22) *Brentford v Bournemouth*
(23) * Bristol Rovers v Exeter
(24) Bromley v Enfield
(25) Burnley v Lincoln
(—) Cambridge Utd v Welling
(—) *Cardiff v Hendon*
(—) Carlisle v Shepshed Dynamo
(—) Chester v Stalybridge
(26) Chesterfield v Bury
(27) Colchester v Wycombe
(—) *Colwyn Bay v Wrexham*
(at Wrexham FC)
(—) * Crewe v Kidderminster
(28) Farnborough v Barnet
(29) Gillingham v Hereford
(30) *Hartlepool v York*
(—) Hednesford v Southport
(—) Leyton Orient v Merthyr
(31) Macclesfield v Rochdale
(—) Mansfield v Consett
(32) Northwich v *Walsall*
(—) Peterborough v Cheltenham
(33) Plymouth v Fulham
(—) Preston v Altrincham
(34) * Runcorn v Darlington
(35) Scunthorpe v *Rotherham*
(36) Shrewsbury v Scarborough
(37) Stevenage v Hayes
(38) Stockport v Doncaster
(—) * Sudbury Tn v Brighton (2.0)
(39) Swansea v *Bristol City*
(40) Torquay v Luton
(—) Wisbech v St Albans

Vauxhall Conference

(—) *Gateshead v Slough*

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(41) Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
(42) *Hearts v Hibernian*
(43) Kilmarnock v Motherwell
(44) Raith v Dunfermline

First division

(45) Airdrie v Falkirk
(46) Clydebank v *Partick*
(47) Dundee v St Johnstone
(48) St Mirren v *Greenock Morton*
(49) Stirling v East Fife

Second division

(—) Berwick v Livingston
(—) *Brechin v Clyde*
(—) Queen of South v Hamilton
(—) *Stenhousemuir v Dumbarton*
(—) Stranraer v Ayr

Third division

(—) Albion v Queen's Park
(—) Cowdenbeath v Arbroath
(—) East Stirling v Alloa
(—) Forfar v Montrose
(—) Inverness CT v *Ross County*

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Heybridge; Carshalton v Oxford City; Harrow v Yeading; Hitchin v Dulwich; Kingstonian v *Bishop's Stortford*; Staines v Purfleet; Yeovil v Sutton United. First *division*: Basingstoke v Hampton; Berkhamsted v Chesham; Canvey Island v Leyton Pennant; Croydon v Walton and Hersham; *Maidenhead United v Barton Rovers*; Marlow v Abingdon Town; Molesey v *Whyteleafe*; Thame v Uxbridge; Tooting and Mitcham v Billericay; Wokingham v Bognor Regis; Worthing v Aldershot Town. Second division: *Banstead v H Hempstead*; Berkhamsted v Horsham; Bedford T v *Edgware*; Bracknell v Egham; Chalfont St Peter v Cheshunt; Collier Row and Romford v Tilbury; Dorking v Witham; Metropolitan Police v Ware; Wembley v *Leighton*; Windsor and Eton v Hungerford; Wivenhoe v *Leatherhead*. Third division: Aveley v Wingate and Finchley; Camberley v Epsom and Ewell; East Thurrock v Hornchurch; Flackwell Heath v *Kingsbury*; Harlow v Clapton; Northwood Res v Braintree; Tring v Lewes; Wealdstone v Southall.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Eton Manor; Brentwood v Hullbridge Sports; *Concord* v Ford United; East Ham v Southend Manor; Great Wakering v Burnham Ramblers; Ilford v Bowers; Saffron Walden v Stansted.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Beaconsfield *SYCOB v Barkingside*; Hanwell v Islington St Marys; Haringey v *Cockfosters*; Hillingdon Boro v Croydon; Ruislip Manor v Harefield; Waltham Abbey v Brimsdown.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Hartley Wintney; Cove v Viking Sports; Godalming and Guildford v Farnham; Merstham v Feltham; Netherne v Bedfont; Reading v Cranleigh; Walton Casuals v Corinthian-Casuals.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: *O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers premier division Cup*: Brache Sparta v Milton Keynes; Hoddesdon v Arlesey Town; Royston v Biggleswade; Toddington v Welwyn Gdn; London Colney v Letchworth; Potters Bar v Bedford United.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Westbury; Bridport v Barnstaple; *Brislington v Torrington*; *Bristol* Manor Farm v Bridgwater; Chard v Calne; Chippenham v Paulton R; Odd Down v Elmore; Taunton v Mangotsfield; Tiverton v Backwell.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Sudbury; Felixstowe P and T v Soham; Gorleston v Fakenham; Great Yarmouth v *Newmarket*; Halstead v Warboys; Harwich and Parkeston v Bury Town; Lowestoft v Tiptree; March v Clacton; Stowmarket v Hadleigh U; Watton v Woodbridge.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: *First division*: Lymington v East Cowes; Andover v Portsmouth; BAT v Ryde Sports; Bemerton Heath v Thatcham; *Christchurch v Gosport*; Cowes Sports v Downton; Eastleigh v Petersfield; Romsey v Brockenhurst; Wimborne Town v Whitchurch.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First *division*: *Eastbourne Town v Oakwood*; Horsham YMCA v Selsey; Langney Sports v Whitehawk; Mile Oak v Peacehaven and Telscombe; *Pagham v Hassocks*; *Portfield* v Ringmer; Saltdean v Arundel; Southwick v Hailsham; Three Bridges v Shoreham. John O'Hara League Cup: Second round: Burgess Hill v Midhurst and Eastbourne; Wick v Littlehampton.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Hythe; Crockenhill v *Canterbury*; *Deal v Beckenham*; *Faversham* v Whitstable; Folkestone Invicta v Woolwich; Furness v Cray; Greenwich v Thamesmead; Ramsgate v Lordswood; Sheppey v Corinthian; Slade Green v Tunbridge Wells.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester v Banbury; Burnham v Endsleigh; *Fairford v Tuffley*; *Highworth v Swindon Supermarine*; Lambourn Sports v Carterton; North Leigh v Shortwood.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v *Kempston*; Desborough v Newport Pagnell; Eynesbury v Boston; Ford Sports v Cogenhoe; Holbeach v Northampton Spencer; *Mirrlees Blackstone* v Stotfold; Wellingborough v S and L Corby; Wootton v St Neots. Cup: Second round: Long Buckby v Spalding; Potton v Stamford.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: *Premier division: Derry v Bray (7.30)*; Home Farm v St Patrick's Ath (7.30); Sligo v Finn Harps (7.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Glentoran; Crusaders v *Portadown*; Glenavon v *Cliftonville (2.0)*; Linfield v Coleraine. First division: Ballymena v Ballyclare; Carrick v Bangor; Larne v Omagh.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v *Knypersley V*; *Boldmere St M v Oldbury U*; Bridgnorth v Sandwell; Hinckley Athletic v Blakenhall; Pelsall V v Pershore T; Rocester v Halesowen H; Rushall O v *Stapenhill*; Shifnal T v Bloxwich Town; W Mid Police v Stratford T; Willenhall v Chasetown.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Boldmere S v *Worcester*; *David Lloyd v Coleshill*; Highgate v Alvechurch; Knowle v King's Heath; Meir KA v Wellesbourne.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Bloxwich S; Tividale v Stourport S; Walsall Wood v Brierley Hill T; Wednesfield v Malvern T; Westfields v Lye Town.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Glossop North End; Blackpool Rovers v Penrith; Bootle v St Helens; Clitheroe v Maine Road; Nidsgrove v Darwen; Mossley v Rossendale; Nantwich v Chadderton; Prescot cables v Vauxhall GM; Salford v Holker Old Boys; Trafford v Burscough.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Ashfield v Garforth; Belper Town v Glasshoughton Wel; Brodsworth Welfare v Hatfield Main; Brigg Town v Liversedge; Brodsworth MW v Ossett Town; Denaby v Hallam; Glapwell v Pickering; Hall Rd Rgrs v Selby; Hucknall v Arnold; Louth v Eccleshill; Pontefract *Collieries v Maltby MW*; *Rossington Main* v Borrowash Vic; Sheffield v Armthorpe Welfare; Thackley v N Ferriby; Worsbrough Bridge v Harrogate RA; Yorkshire Amateurs v Ossett Albion.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Bedlington Terriers; Chester-le-Street v *RTM Newcastle*; *Dunston Federation* v Stockton; Durham v Crook; Easington v Morpeth; Murton v Shildon; South Shields v Whickham; *Tow Law v Seaham Red Star*; West Auckland v Guisborough.

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Clachnacuddin; Buckie Thistle v Lossiemouth; Forres Mechanics v *Cove*; Nairn County v Fraserburgh; Peterhead v Deveronvale; Wick Academy v Fort William.

WELSH FA CUP: Third round: Bridgend v Aberystwyth; Briton Ferry v Rhayader; BP Llandarcy v Llanwern; Caernarfon v Ton Pentre; Caersws v Bangor City; Cefn Druids v Ebbw Vale; Cemaes Bay v Porthmadog; *Conwy v Inter Cable-Tel*; *First Town v* Cwmbran; Grange Quins v Llanelli; Holywell v Taff's Well; Llansantffraid v Barry; Newtown v Maesteg Park; Porthcawl v Connahs Quay Nomads; Porth Tywyn v Lex XI; Port Talbot v Welshpool.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Wales (at Ayr United FC)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Gillingham (11.0); *Fulham v Chelsea (11.0)*; *Ipswich v Arsenal* (11.0); Millwall v Norwich (11.0); Portsmouth v Leyton Orient (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Southend (10.45); Tottenham v West Ham (11.0); Watford v Cambridge Utd (11.0). Second division: Barnet v Tottenham (11.0); Bournemouth v Luton (11.0); Brentford v Colchester (11.0); Brighton v *Southampton (11.0)*; *Bristol City v Reading* (11.0); Crystal Palace v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Wimbledon v Swindon (11.0); Wycombe v Oxford Utd (11.0).

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham OX v *Old Aloysians*. Senior Cup: Enfield OG v Old Tiffinians; Glyn OB v Old Buckwellians; Old Edmontonians v Old *Hamptonians*; *Old Ignatians v Old* Bealonians; Old Manorians v Chertsey OS; Old Meadonians v Old Kingsburians; Old Salvatorians v Old Tenisonians; Old Wilsonians v Old Westhamians; Old Wokingians v John Fisher OB; Shene OG v Cardinal Manning OB.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v *Norsemen*; *Civil* Service v Old Actonians; Old Esthameians v Polytechnic; South Bank v West Wickham.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Witan; St Mary's Coll v Hale *End Ath*; *Ulysses v Wandsworth Bor*.

OTHER MATCH: Grays Athletic v Arsenal XI

SCHOOLS MATCHES (kick-off 10.30 unless stated) **English Schools Fuji Film** *Trophy: Third round: Bishop Auckland* v Rochdale (12.0); Cardiff v Slough (11.0); Coventry v Birmingham; Darlington v Rossendale (11.0); Derby v Wolverhampton; Gosport v Mid and South Warwicks (1.30); Kirkby Knowsley v North Tyneside; Liverpool v Trafford; Manchester v Halton; Newham v Croydon; Redbridge v *North Sussex*; *Sefton v Barnsley*; *Sheffield* v Carlisle; South East Sussex v Islington (11.0); South Cheshire v East Durham; South Notts v *Coalville*; *Watford v Brent*; Worthing v Ipswich. FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Cumbria v North Yorks. Under-16: Cumbria v North Yorkshire. Wright Cup: Southampton v East Berks. London Hawk Trophy: Basildon v North Kent. Essex Johnson Cup: Barking v Havering (10.0). London Gill Cup: Islington v *Newham*. *South London v Thurrock*. London Crisp Shield: Newham v Brent. Cotswold League: *Newbury v Gloucester*. Mid-Oxon v Swindon. Gibson Trophy: Croydon v South Surrey. Essex Finch Shield: Barking v Thurrock. London Pear Trophy: South London v Blackheath. Thurrock v Redbridge. Haugh Trophy: *North Kent v Brighton*. *Lancaster Cup*: Semi-final: Kingston v Croydon. Alcock Cup: Wirral v Flint. West Midlands League: Wolverhampton v Shrewsbury. West Yorkshire League: Hull v Wakefield. Vernon League: St. Helens v *Liverpool*. Skelmersdale v Chester. Preston v Crosby. Kirkby v Wirral. TUC Trophy: Newcastle v North Tyneside. Inter-association: Chester v Bolton. East Berks v Vale of White Horse. *Havering v Ipswich*. *Orpington v Medway*. Newcastle v Washington: Wandsworth v Hackney. 14: Wolverhampton Wanderers Cup: Bromsgrove and Droitwich v Wolverhampton. Cannock v Coventry. Goodhand Trophy: Chesterfield v Mansfield. Inter Town Challenge: Salford v Stockport. Chorley v Preston. Macclesfield v St Helens. *Blackpool v Wigan*. *Calderdale v Bradford*. Yorkshire Cup: Semi-final replay: Scarborough v Huddersfield. Yorkshire Trophy: York v Doncaster. *Alcock Cup: Under-14*: Halton v Tameside. Trafford v Stockport. Staffordshire League: Stafford v Shrewsbury.

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Woking. Beckenham v Tunbridge Wells. Fareham v *Wimbledon*. Gore Court v High Wycombe. Hampstead and Westminster v Ashford. Maidenhead v Old Whitgiftians. Old Kingstonians v Chichester. Richmond v Ramgarhia. Spencer v *Wokingham*. *Winchester v Bournemouth*. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Blandford. Camberley v Petersfield. Portsmouth v Old Cranleighans. Dulwich v Goan. Purley v Andover. Walton and Weybridge v Southampton. Cheam v London University. Old Walcountians v Oxted. Epsom v Basingstoke. Oxshott v Old Mid-Whitgiftians. Kent/Sussex: Ashford v Lloyds Bank. Belvedere v Eastbourne. Bexley Invicta v Worthing. Blackheath v *Bexleyheath*. *Brighton v Bognor*. *Horne Bay v Tulse Hill*. Horsham v Old Holcombeians. Marden Russets v Mid Sussex. Middleton v Sevenoaks. Old Bordenians v Old Williamsonians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Bracknell v Amersham. City of Oxford v Staines. Eastcote v Newbury. Gerrards Cross v Fichings Park. Harrow v *Sunbury*. Hayes v OMT. Marlow v Headington. Mill Hill v PHC Chiswick. Milton Keynes v Lions. West Hampstead v *Farnham Common*.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield v Bloxwich. Coventry and North Warwicks v Khalsa. Hampton-in-Arden v Loughborough Students. Harborne v North Notts. Olton and West Warwickshire v Nottingham.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: *Chelmsford v Sudbury*. *Colchester* v Dereham. Ipswich v Cambridge City. Peterborough Town v Bishop's Stortford. *Redbridge and Ilford v Cambridge University*. Premier division B: Bedford Town v Norwich City. Bury St Edmunds v Clacton. Ipswich and East Suffolk v Romford. Luton Town v Huntingdon. Old Southendian v *Westcliff*.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division. Ben Rhydding v Chester. Formby v Timperley. Harrogate v Ramgarhia. Neston v Norton. Springfields v Sheffield Bankers. Swalwell v *Southport*.

WOMEN'S WELSH LEAGUE: Haverfordwest v Colwyn Bay. Penarth v Newtown. Swansea v Cardiff Ath. *Cardiff Institute* v Pontypridd.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bath v Exeter. Bluehams v Hendon. Bowdon v Harrogate. Cambridge University v Cambridge City. *Ealing v Canterbury (1.15)*. *East* Gloucester v Yate. East Grinstead v Tun Wells. Gloucester City v Rover. Guildford v Winchester. Horsham v Maidenhead; Hounslow v Reading. Letchworth v Bishop's *Stortford*. *Long Buckby v Peterboro*; Luton v Bedford. Norwich City v Harleston. Old Loughtonians v Ipswich !!. P and G v Atlanta. Sevenoaks v Hampstead. Sherwood v Hampton. Southgate v Wimbledon. Staines v *Oxford Hawks*. Surbiton v Tulse Hill. Warrington v Macclesfield. Welwyn Garden City v Redbridge. Woking v Teddington. Wycombe Rye v Farnham Common.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Leigh Miners. Heworth v Saddleworth. Lock Lane v Beverley. Oldham St Anne's v Mayfield. *First division*: Askam v Walney Central. Barrow Island v Moldgreen. Blackbrook v Millom. Leigh East v Eastmoor. Oulton v East Leeds. Second division: Dewsbury Moor v Eccles. Featherstone Amateur v *Skirlaugh*. *Milford* v York Acorn. New Earswick v Shaw Cross. Normanton v Ovenden.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester v Newcastle (7.30)

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-final: Thames Valley v Leopards (8.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Tour matches

Oxford University v South Africa A (3.0)
Ulster v Australia XV
(at Ravenhill)

Heineken Cup
Quarter-finals

Cardiff v Bath
Dax v Toulouse (3.30).
Leicester v Harlequins (3.0)

European Conference
Quarter-finals

Agen v Begles-Bordeaux (6.30)
Bourgoin v *Montferrand* (2.0)
Castres v Toulon (6.30)
Northampton v Narbonne (3.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

London Irish v Wasps (2.15)
Orrell v Gloucester

Second division

Bedford v Coventry (3.0)
Blackheath v *Wakefield* (3.0)
London Scottish v Newcastle (3.0)
Nottingham v Richmond (3.0)
Rotherham v Moseley (2.15)
Rugby v Waterloo (3.0)

Third division

Clifton v Harrogate (3.0)
Fylde v Exeter
Havant v Wharfedale
Liverpool St Helens v Rosslyn Park
Morley v Leeds (3.0)
Otley v Reading (2.15)
Redruth v London Welsh
Walsall v Lydney

Fourth division north

Aspatria v Stoke-on-Trent
Hereford v *Manchester*
Lichfield v Stourbridge
Preston Grasshoppers v
Birmingham/Solihull (2.15)
Sandal v *Kendal* (2.15)
Sheffield v Nuneaton
Winnington Park v Worcester

Fourth division south

Camberley v Askeans
Cheltenham v High Wycombe
Henley v Barking
Metropolitan Police v Charlton Park (3.0)
North Walsham v Newbury
Tabard v Plymouth
Weston-super-Mare v Berry Hill (3.0)

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham v *Camborne*; *Gloucester Old Boys v* Bridgwater; Maidenhead v Stroud; St Ives v Barnstaple; Salisbury v Matson; Torquay v Launceston.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First *division*: Harlow v Basingstoke; *Norwich v Ruislip*; Southend v Thurrock; Staines v Guildford and Godalming; Sudbury v Esher; Sutton and Epsom v Old Colfeians.

MIDLANDS: First division: Derby v Burton; *Hinckley v Broadstreet*; *Leamington* v Belgrave; Leighton Buzzard v Barkers Butts; Mansfield v Wolverhampton; Scunthorpe v Whitchurch; Stafford v Westleigh; Stockwood Park v Syston.

NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians v Bridlington; Sedgley Park v Widnes; Stockton v Broughton Park; Tynedale v Macclesfield; Wigton v New Brighton; West Park Bramhope v Bradford and Bingley.

Welsh League
First division

Caerphilly v Bridgend
Newport v Neath
Pontypridd v Ebbw Vale
Swansea v Newbridge

Second division

Aberavon v Abertillery
Abercynon v Llandovery
Blackwood v Bonymaen
Maesteg v Pontypool
South Wales Police v Cardiff Institute
Ystradgynlais v Cross Keys

THIRD DIVISION: Kenfig Hill v Tredegar; Llanharan v Mountain Ash; Merthyr v Builth Wells; Narberth v Rumney; Tenby Utd v Pyle; Tondu v Penarth.

Tennents Premiership
First division

Hawick v Boroughmuir (2.0)
Heriot's FP v Currie (2.0)
Stirling County v Melrose (2.0)
Watsonians v Jed-Forest (2.0)

Second division

Biggar v Glasgow Hk (2.0)
Dundee HSFP v Kelso (2.0)
Glasgow Academicals v
Edinburgh Academicals (2.0).
West of Scotland v Gala (2.0)

Third division

Glasgow Southern v Kilmarnock (2.0)
Kirkcaldy v Peebles (2.0)
Preston Lodge v
Stewart's Melville FP (2.0)
Selkirk v Musselburgh (2.0)

Fourth division

Ayr v Hillhead/Jordanhill (2.0)
Corstorphine v Langholm (2.0)
Gordonians v Haddington (2.0)
Grangemouth v Glenrothes (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Liberty Trophy: Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire. Norfolk v Suffolk.

GYMNASTICS: *British championships* (Nottingham)

ICE HOCKEY: European Cup: Semi-final round-robin: HPK Hameenlinna (Fin) v Sheffield (7.0). Superleague: Nottingham v *Manchester (7.0)*. *Basingstoke v Ayr (6.30)*. Bracknell v Cardiff (6.40)

ICE SKATING: *British championships (at* Guildford)

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division. Stockport v Heaton Mersey. Timperley v Poynton. *Hulmeians v Old Waconians*. *Mellor* v Cheadle: Cheadle Hulme v Moorthorpe

REAL TENNIS: *British Open championships* (Queen's Club)

ROWING: Thames world sculling challenge (from Putney to Mortlake, women's race 2.0, men's race 3.0)

SNOOKER: UK championship (at Preston)

SWIMMING. British Grand Prix (at Leicester)

TENNIS: Guardian Direct national *championships (at Telford)*

VOLLEYBALL: National League. Men: *First division*: *Ealing v Whitefield (7.0)*. Lewisham v Warwick (2.30). Liverpool v Tooting (5.30). Leeds v Stoke (1.0). Wessex v Crofton (6.30). Women: First division. Leeds v Birmingham (4.0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket match

FA Carling Premiership

Derby v Middlesbrough (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

Wolverhampton v Birmingham (2.10)

FA Cup
First round

Newcastle Town v Notts County
(at Stoke City FC, 2.0)
* Northampton v Watford (1.0)
* *Whitby v Hull*
(at Scarborough FC, 12.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shamrock v Cork (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster v Southampton (at Armthorpe Welfare Ground, 2.0); Ilkeston Tn v *Everton (at New Manor Ground, 2.0)*; Liverpool v Tranmere Rovers (at Kirkby Sports Stadium, 12.0); Millwall v Arsenal (at Fisher *FC, 2.0)*, Wembley v *Croydon (at Wembley* FC, 2.0)

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Bradford v Wolverhampton; Garswood St Helens v Aston Villa; Huddersfield v Blyth Spartans; Sheffield Wednesday v Notts County. Southern division: Berkhamstead v Ipswich; Langford v Whitehawk; Oxford Res v Brighton and Hove; Three Bridges v Town and County; Wimbledon v Leyton Orient.

RUGBY UNION

Under-21 international match

Ireland v New Zealand News
(at Thomond Park, Limerick, 2.30)

Tour match

Michael Lynagh's XV v Queensland
(at Saracens, 3.0)

Heineken Cup
Quarter-final

Brive v Llanelli (1.45)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v Hounslow (at Holyhead Leisure Centre, 1.0). Guildford v Southgate *(at King's Manor School, 12.0)*; Old Loughtonians v Cannock (at Chigwell, 1.30); Reading v East Grinstead (at Sonning Lane, 2.0); Surbiton v Canterbury (at Sugden Road, 2.30). Teddington v Havant (at Dukes Meadow, Chiswick, 12.0). First division: Beeston v St Albans (at Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Bluehans v Stourport (at Hitchin Boys School, 2.0). *Bournville v Trojans (at* King Edwards Girls School, Edgbaston, 2.30), Bromley v Warrington (at Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0); Brooklands v Harleston Magpies (at Georges Road, Sale, 2.0). *City of Portsmouth* v Gloucester City (at Alexandra Park, Portsmouth, 1.30), Crostyx v Firebrands (at Chigwell, 12.30), Doncaster v Edgbaston *(at Bennethorpe, 2.0)*. Hull v Oxford Hawks (at Hull University SC, 2.0); Isca v Sheffield (at Exeter School, 12.30); Lewes v Oxford University (at Southdown Club, 2.0)

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES. *England XI v Sutton Canada Life (at Lilleshall,* 2.30), England Under-21 XI v Ealing (at Bisham Abbey, 2.30), England Under-21 XI v Wimbledon (at Bisham Abbey, 2.30)

WOMEN'S WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff Athletic v *Cardiff Institute*, Haverfordwest v Newtown, Penarth v Colwyn Bay, Pontypridd v Swansea.

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: International match: England v China (at King's Lynn).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: *Hemel* and Watford v Birmingham (1.30)

GYMNASTICS: British championships (Nottingham).

ICE HOCKEY: European Cup: Semi-final *round-robin*: *Polymir Novopolotsk (Fin)* v Sheffield (3.30). Superleague: Newcastle v Basingstoke (6.30); *Manchester v Ayr (6.0)*. *Cardiff v Nottingham (6.0)*

REAL TENNIS: British Open championships (Queen's Club)

SNOOKER: UK championship (at Preston)

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix (at Leicester)

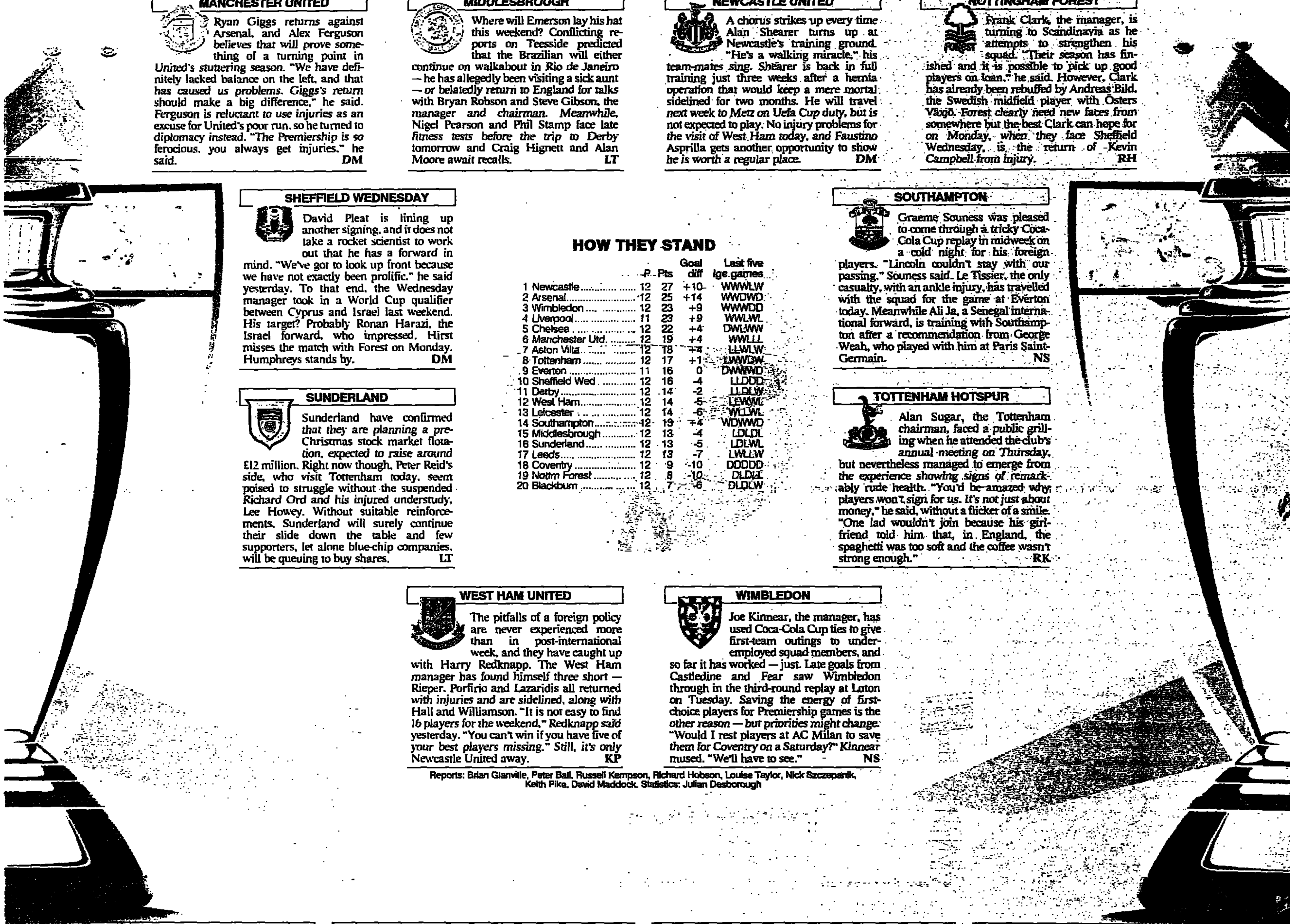
TENNIS: Guardian Direct national championships (at Telford)

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Women: First division: Salford v Essex (2.15), Guildford v London (2.30), Liverpool v Loughborough (12.45); *Sheffield v Britannia* (1.0)

FANCY A LEG?

To find out more about the thrill of owning a racehorse, call 01942 613030 for a free guide from the British Horseracing Board.

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND



ARSENAL

Arsenal are looking prolific in attack, in the image of a revitalised Ian Wright, but are less impressive in defence. Though they eventually crushed Stoke 5-2 in a Coca-Cola Cup third-round replay in midweek, it took them a surprisingly long time to get going. Stoke not only scored twice against them but sometimes exposed their lack of pace in defence. Arsenal, still lacking a creator in midfield, would do well to buy Georgi Kinkladze, of Manchester City. **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Brian Little's relaxed, affable demeanour has been sorely tested of late, what with Savo Milosevic's on-off move to Perugia, "Basil" Bosnich's appearance before the FA and rumours of the impending sale of Mark Draper. Of deeper concern, though, are Little's efforts to capture Stan Collymore, a pompous, perplexing character who feels he is much too good for Liverpool reserves. Just the type of player to restore peace, harmony and camaraderie at Villa Park. **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

A vote of confidence for the temporary manager, but he doesn't want it. Tony Parkes is happy enough to fill in while Blackburn Rovers search for a new manager, but when Robert Coar, the chairman, offered his full backing yesterday, it was politely declined. "I don't want the job. I have said that all along and I will not be changing my mind," he said. Georgiou Donis is the only doubt for the visit of Chelsea, so Damien Duff, a teenager, stands by. **DM**

CHELSEA

It is a pity that Gianfranco Zola cannot make his debut for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, but if he does play at Blackburn, as expected, he should not have too much difficulty settling in alongside his two fellow Italians, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo. Certainly he will play up front. It remains to be seen whether Ruud Gullit dares to use a three-man attack. Mark Hughes would presumably be the odd man out but, as Gullit says, Hughes has been in convincing form recently. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Just when he thought it could not get any worse ... Only three days after the Coca-Cola Cup humiliation against Gillingham, Gordon Strachan takes his shocked troops to Wimbledon this afternoon. It is Strachan's Premiership bow as a manager, after Ron Atkinson's sudden move upstairs, and, at 39, he is also likely to play an active role on the pitch. As Big Ron uttered memorably last season: "I've never known anyone as fit as him at that age, except perhaps Racquel Welch." **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Derby lay the foundation stone at their new ground tomorrow, which will be their home from the start of next season. Indeed, activities at Pride Park may prove more entertaining than those at the Baseball Ground, two miles away, when, without the suspended Igor Stimac, they entertain Middlesbrough tomorrow. Attractions include a tour of the new ground via CD-Rom. "Our plans are based around moving there as a Premiership club," Peter Gadsby, the vice-chairman, said. **RH**

EVERTON

Neville Southall has seen off another pretender to his crown as Everton No 1. James Speare, a promising teenager, has been told he can leave Goodison Park on a free transfer after both he and Paul Gerrard, a summer signing from Oldham Athletic, failed to displace the 38 year-old. "We believe Jamie has a bright future in the game but he's of a similar age to Gerrard," Joe Royle, the manager, said. "Paul is also waiting for his chance. The sooner James gets fixed up, the better."

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham has still to make a signing, after nine weeks as manager. It is not for want of trying. "I have been all over the place, just about every country in Europe, and most league grounds," he said. In the meantime, Ian Rush will continue to fill in on the right of midfield. He is philosophical, even though he would dearly like to resume normal front-line service against his old club today. "I would even play at left back if it meant getting a first-team game," he said. **DM**

LEICESTER CITY

Brian Little still motivates Leicester, even though he left to manage Aston Villa two years ago. The sides meet at Villa Park this afternoon and Mike Whitlow, the wing back, has mixed feelings about his last visit. Leicester recovered from going 4-1 down to draw 4-4, but Whitlow sat out the second half with a cut eye. "I think we want to impress Brian, although he is not in charge any more," Whitlow said. His view was echoed by Steve Walsh, the captain, who faces a late fitness test. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

The Collymore saga drags on, but probably not for much longer. Aston Villa have already tabled a £4.5 million bid, which will be increased, but only when they receive the transfer fee for Milosevic. Liverpool are prepared to sell Collymore at lower than cost price, for the sake of squad harmony, which was seriously disrupted by his refusal to play for the reserves. Redknapp and Ruddock, who did turn out for the second string, are in contention for the trip to Leeds today. **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

Ryan Giggs returns against Arsenal, and Alex Ferguson believes that will prove something of a turning point in United's stuttering season. "We have definitely lacked balance on the left, and that has caused us problems. Giggs's return should make a big difference," he said. Ferguson is reluctant to use injuries as an excuse for United's poor run, so he turned to diplomacy instead. "The Premiership is so ferocious, you always get injuries," he said. **DM**

MIDDLESBROUGH

Where will Emerson lay his hat this weekend? Conflicting reports on Teesside predicted that the Brazilian will either continue on walkabout in Rio de Janeiro — he has allegedly been visiting a sick aunt — or belatedly return to England for talks with Bryan Robson and Steve Gibson, the manager and chairman. Meanwhile, Nigel Pearson and Phil Stamp face late fitness tests before the trip to Derby tomorrow and Craig Hignett and Alan Moore await recalls. **LT**

NEWCASTLE UNITED

A chorus strikes up every time Alan Shearer turns up at Newcastle's training ground. "He's a walking miracle," his team-mates sing. Shearer is back in full training just three weeks after a hernia operation that would keep a mere mortal sidelined for two months. He will travel next week to Metz on Uefa Cup duty, but is not expected to play. No injury problems for the visit of West Ham today, and Faustino Asprilla gets another opportunity to show he is worth a regular place. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Frank Clark, the manager, is turning to Scandinavia as he attempts to strengthen his squad. "Their season has finished and it is possible to pick up good players on loan," he said. However, Clark has already been rebuffed by Andreas Bild, the Swedish midfield player with Osters Växjö. Forest clearly need new faces from somewhere but the best Clark can hope for on Monday, when they face Sheffield Wednesday, is the return of Kevin Campbell from injury. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

David Pleat is lining up another signing, and it does not take a rocket scientist to work out that he has a forward in mind. "We've got to look up front because we have not exactly been prolific," he said yesterday. To that end, the Wednesday manager took in a World Cup qualifier between Cyprus and Israel last weekend. His target? Probably Ronan Harazi, the Israel forward, who impressed. Hirst misses the match with Forest on Monday. Humphreys stands by. **DM**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland have confirmed that they are planning a pre-Christmas stock market flotation, expected to raise around £12 million. Right now though, Peter Reid's side, who visit Tottenham today, seem poised to struggle without the suspended Richard Ord and his injured understudy, Lee Howey. Without suitable reinforcements, Sunderland will surely continue their slide down the table and few supporters, let alone blue-chip companies, will be queuing to buy shares. **LT**

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Newcastle	12	27	+10	WWWLW
2 Arsenal	12	25	+14	WWDWD
3 Wimbledon	12	23	+9	WWWDD
4 *Liverpool*	11	23	+9	WWLWL
5 Chelsea	12	22	+4	DWLWW
6 *Manchester Utd*	12	19	+4	WWLLL
7 Aston Villa	12	18	+4	LLWLW
8 Tottenham	12	17	+1	LWWDW
9 Everton	11	16	0	DWWWD
10 Sheffield Wed	12	16	-4	LLDDD
11 Derby	12	14	-2	LLDLW
12 West Ham	12	14	-5	LLWWL
13 Leicester	12	14	-6	WLLWL
14 Southampton	12	13	-4	WDWWD
15 Middlesbrough	12	13	-4	LDLDL
16 Sunderland	12	13	-5	LDLWL
17 Leeds	12	13	-7	LWLLW
18 Coventry	12	9	-10	DDDDD
19 *Nottm Forest*	12	8	-10	DLDLL
20 Blackburn	12	7	-6	DLDLW

SOUTHAMPTON

Graeme Souness was pleased to come through a tricky Coca-Cola Cup replay in midweek on a cold night for his foreign players. "Lincoln couldn't stay with our passing," Souness said. Le Tissier, the only casualty, with an ankle injury, has travelled with the squad for the game at Everton today. Meanwhile Ali Ja, a Senegal international forward, is training with Southampton after a recommendation from George Weah, who played with him at Paris Saint-Germain. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, faced a public grilling when he attended the club's annual meeting on Thursday, but nevertheless managed to emerge from the experience showing signs of remarkably rude health. "You'd be amazed why players won't sign for us. It's not just about money," he said, without a flicker of a smile. "One lad wouldn't join because his girlfriend told him that, in England, the spaghetti was too soft and the coffee wasn't strong enough." **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

The pitfalls of a foreign policy are never experienced more than in post-international week, and they have caught up with Harry Redknapp. The West Ham manager has found himself three short — Rieper, Porfirio and Lazaridis all returned with injuries and are sidelined, along with Hall and Williamson. "It is not easy to find 16 players for the weekend," Redknapp said yesterday. "You can't win if you have five of your best players missing." Still, it's only Newcastle United away. **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Joe Kinnear, the manager, has used Coca-Cola Cup ties to give first-team outings to under-employed squad members, and so far it has worked — just. Late goals from Castledine and Fear saw Wimbledon through in the third-round replay at Luton on Tuesday. Saving the energy of first-choice players for Premiership games is the other reason — but priorities might change. "Would I rest players at AC Milan to save them for Coventry on a Saturday?" Kinnear mused. "We'll have to see." **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

ASTON VILLA v LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-1, —, —, —, —, —, —, 4-4, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

ASTON VILLA (from): M Oakes, F Nelson, T Wright, C Tiler, G Southgate, U Ehiogu, A Townsend, I Taylor, S Curcic, D Yorke, T Johnson, M Draper, J Joachim, G Farrelly, R Scimeca, A Rachel.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, M Whitlow, J Watts, S Walsh, C Hill, S Prior, N Lennon, S Taylor, S Claridge, E Heskey, M Izzet, G Parker, J Lawrence, N Lewis, S Slater, P Kaamark, S Campbell, S Wilson, K Poole

BLACKBURN ROVERS v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 1-1, —, —, —, 2-0, 2-0, 2-1, 3-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, W McKinlay, K Gallacher, C Sutton, J Wilcox, S Given, L Bohinen, S Ripley, G Fenton, N Marker, G Croft, *G Donis, D Duff.*

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, F Grodas, R Gullit, N Colgan, D Petrescu, S Clarke, F Leboeuf, R Di Matteo, G Zola, G Vialli, M Hughes, J Spencer, D Wise, S Minto, F Sinclair, T Phelan, E Newton, *C Burley, M Duberry*

EVERTON v SOUTHAMPTON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 1-0, 4-1, 3-0, 3-0, 0-1, 2-1, 1-0, 0-0, 2-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe, A Kanchelskis, G Speed, G Stuart, D Ferguson, N Barmby, J Parkinson, P Gerrard, M Branch, G Allen.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): C Woods, U van Gobbel, C Lundekvam, R Dryden, K Monkou, J Dodd, A Neilson, E Berkovic, M Le Tissier, E Ostenstad, G Watson, J Magilton, M Oakley, R Slater, D Beasant.

LEEDS UNITED v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 4-5, 1-0, 2-2, 2-0, 0-2, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, G Kelly, D Wetherall, P Beesley, L Radebe, I Rush, M Ford, L Bowyer, L Sharpe, B Deane, R Wallace, C Palmer, A Couzens, I Harte, H Kewell, M Jackson, M Beeney.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, S I Bjornebye, N Ruddock, M Wright, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, *M Thomas*, J Redknapp, P Berger, M Kennedy, R Fowler, S Collymore, A Warner.

MANCHESTER UNITED v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 0-0, 1-1, 4-1, 0-1, 1-1, 0-0, 1-0, 3-0, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, P Neville, D Irwin, D May, R Johnsen, D Beckham, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, J Cruyff, O G Solskjaer, P Scholes, K Poborsky, R van der Gouw

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Adams, S Bould, M Keown, R Parlour, P Vieira, D Platt, P Merson, I Wright, D Bergkamp, S Morrow, J Lukic, A Linighan, P Shaw, M Rose

NEWCASTLE UNITED v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, 2-1, 1-2, 2-1, 1-1, —, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0, 3-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, P Beardsley, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, R Elliott, D Ginola, S Hislop, K Gillespie, S Watson, P Albert, P Kitson.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, S Bilic, J Dicks, F Lampard, I Dowie, S Jones, M Hughes, M Bowen, P Futre, I Dumitrescu, S Potts, P Shilton, J Moncur, I Bishop, F Raducioiu.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v SUNDERLAND

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 3-3, —, —, —, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, E Baardsen, S Carr, D Austin, C Calderwood, S Campbell, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, C Wilson, D Howells, A Nielsen, J Dozzell, R Rosenthal, E Sheringham, C Armstrong, D Anderton, A Sinton, R Allen.

SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, D Preece, G Hall, M Scott, D Kubicki, A Melville, M Gray, K Ball, P Bracewell, S Agnew, A Rae, D Kelly, P Stewart, M Bridges, J Mullin, M Smith, C Russell, S Aiston.

WIMBLEDON v COVENTRY CITY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 1-2, 0-1, 0-0, 1-0, 1-1, 1-2, 1-2, 2-0, 0-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, D Blackwell, A Kimble, C Perry, N Ardley, S Castledine, P Fear, M Gayle, A Clarke, D Holdsworth, M Harford, E Ekoku, A Reeves, V Jones, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, P Heald, B Murphy.

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, L Daish, P Williams, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Telfer, K Richardson, G McAllister, J Salako, E Jess, D Dublin, N Whelan, P Ndlovu, G Strachan, *W Boland, M O'Neill, J Filan*

LEADING SCORERS

10: I Wright (Arsenal)
8: M Le Tissier (Southampton)
7: F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), *A Shearer (Newcastle United)*
6: E Ekoku (Wimbledon), G Vialli (Chelsea)
5: *D Yorke (Aston Villa)*, A Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), C Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), R Earle (Wimbledon), M Gayle (Wimbledon)

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

TOMORROW

DERBY COUNTY v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 1-0, —, —, 2-0, —, 0-1, 0-1, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, C Powell, D Powell, D Yates, P McGrath, J Laursen, A Asanovic, A Ward, D Sturridge, C Daily, S Flynn, L Carsley, P Simpson, R Willems, M Carbon, M Taylor.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, P Whelan, S Vickers, D Whyte, G Fleming, C Morris, R Mustoe, A Moore, C Hignett, Juninho, M Beck, F Ravanelli, J A Fjortoft, M Summerbell, A Campbell.

MONDAY

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 0-1, 0-3, 0-3, —, 2-1, 2-0, —, 1-7, 1-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, M Clarke, P Atherton, D Stefanovic, J Newsome, S Oakes, D Walker, I Nolan, S Nicol, G Whittingham, G Hyde, M Pembridge, R Blinker, R Humphreys, A Booth, M Bright, D Hirst, M Williams, O Trustfull.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, A Fettis, D Lyttle, A I Haaland, C Cooper, N Jerkan, S Chettle, S Pearce, D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, C Allen, I Woan, K Campbell, D Saunders, P McGregor, J Lee, S Howe, B Roy, S Blatherwick.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.40pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Derby County v Middlesbrough (live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football
Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest (live)

صحكنا من الاجل

Leighton builds revival on family matters

Scottish football minted a gold medal for Jim Leighton, the first goalkeeper in their history to reach 75 caps, and then had to thank him for four defiant saves that, last weekend, enabled Scotland to beat Sweden in a World Cup qualifying match. As Leighton, now Hibernian's goalkeeper, prepares for the Edinburgh derby today, how many people, north and south of the border, realise how this man's life and times in the game represents a triumph for family values.

Leighton, cruelly dropped by Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, between the drawn 1990 FA Cup Final and the replay, who dropped a clanger of his own in the World Cup against Brazil in Turin a month later and was then shunned by the entire professional game for 2½ years, is built on quiet resilience. A goalkeeper wearing contact lenses, a man sensitive but deeply reliable, he said: "I didn't need a gold medal to remind my family where we have been and what we have done. My dad has always been there for me, my wife and children have been through the hurt and the long periods of disappointment, the way people outside seemed to feel I was scarred for ever and that I wouldn't have the pride to come back."

The pride, the family and the man. In Leighton's case, it seems such a rounded circle, such an old-fashioned set of virtues. Not for him the counselling of complete strangers; not for him baring his soul and exposing everything within him, either to what he calls "the wee papers" or the trained therapists.

His father, Sam, out of work since the Chrysler and Talbot car plant closed down, has

JIM LEIGHTON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

by Rob Hughes

watched more than half the matches his son has played in 18 years. "He never pushed, never interfered, but he is very knowledgeable about the game," Leighton Jnr said. "Dad was a good enough player in his time, a left winger who had Leeds United at his door with papers to sign; but he had to send them away because he had just had his call-up and, by the time he came out, he was 27."

Leighton, in the even-tempered manner of Perthshire, has always known that his own professional career meant more than usual to a parent who lost opportunity himself. Yet his wife, Linda, his daughter, Clare, 15, and son, Greg, 13, have, as recently as this summer, had to talk him round from quitting Scotland altogether.

The national team had turned back to him after Andy Goram, perhaps a more gifted goalkeeper but not as reliable a person, had refused to travel to Moscow, citing "psychological reasons". Leighton defied the Russians, did not allow Scotland's goal to be breached there or in the five subsequent European qualifying games ... and come high summer, was not given a moment in the spotlight of the finals in England.

"Soul destroying," he murmured time and again this week. "During the championships, because of all that had happened in England, this would have been the pinnacle. My whole family had tickets, they went to every game; I trained, knowing that I had to be behave in a manner that would not destroy the team spirit. But afterwards, in my own mind, I was finished.

"Once again, my family talked me round. I never got as far as telling Craig [Brown, the Scotland manager], but Linda had said: 'give it one more chance'."

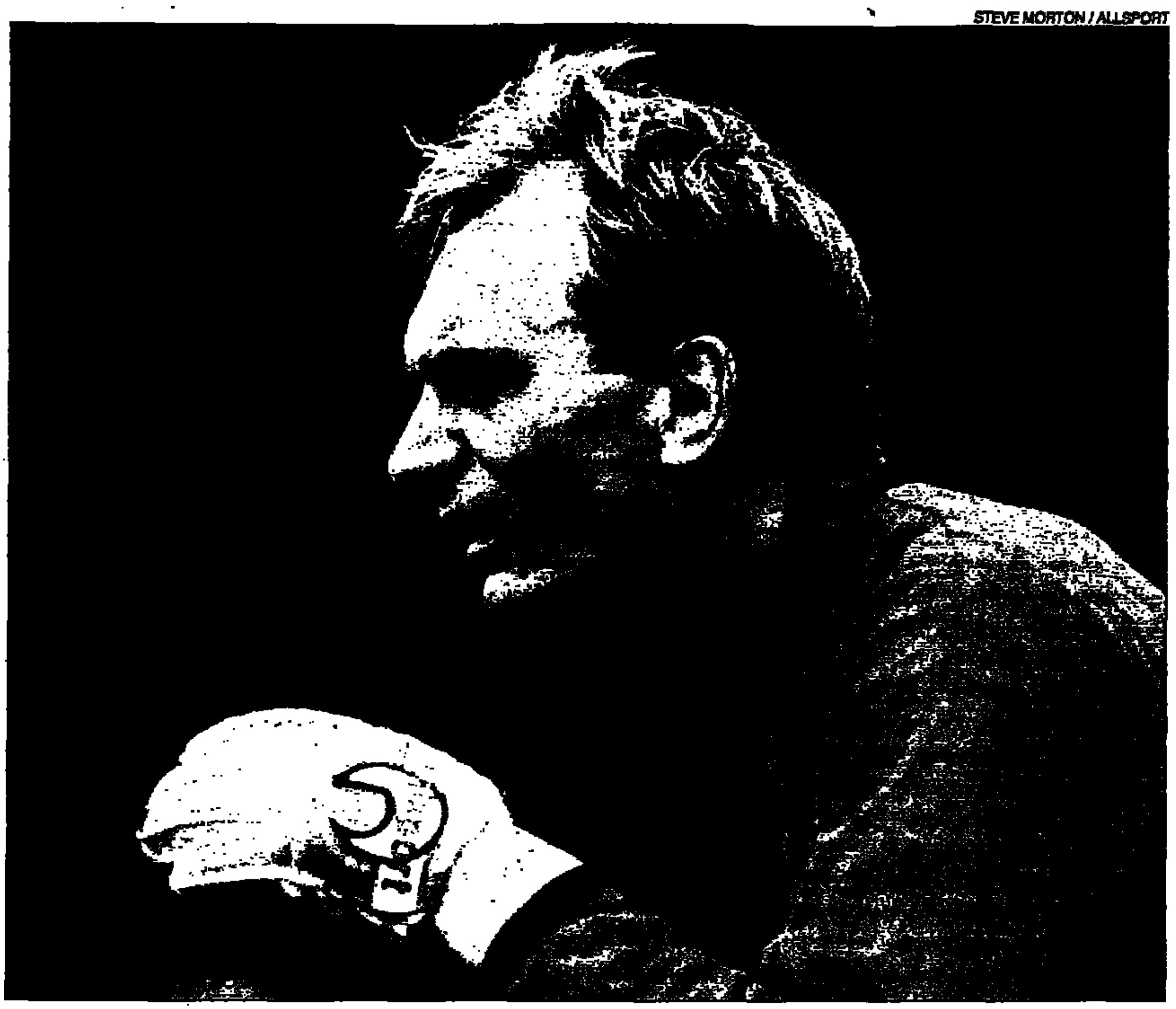
Scorned, let down so many times, you might expect Leighton to complain. Not a bit of it. He has a degree of cussedess — he calls it pride — and, at 38, though he is not counting any chickens, has the figure of 100 caps to aim for. It is remarkable, for Ferguson, celebrating ten years in charge at Old Trafford this week, admits that his handling of Leighton was the most costly, in human terms, of all his decisions.

Followed, so very quickly, by Leighton's error against Brazil, it seemed nobody in the game would employ him. Mark McGhee, who, as a player, had shared Aberdeen's greatest night with Leighton — the victory over Real Madrid to win the Cup Winners' Cup in Gothenburg — did eventually take him on loan to Reading. "Even Mark asked eight different people what my state of mind could be," Leighton recalled. "In fact, Mark told me straight he was worried about taking me on. Part of the problem is that I am shy, I'm not outgoing. I know it is the exact opposite to how goalkeepers come across and that people take it as a weakness. They don't realise that between three and five o'clock I have a huge burning desire to win things."

This desire was felt by his son even in the primary school yards. Greg Leighton was six when his father apparently went from being Manchester United's No 1 to the most pilloried individual within the space of a few weeks. "He had gone to school with others telling him his father was the greatest and then had to stand up against the older boys when they gave him a wee bit of stick."

The boy revelled this week in his father's latest triumph. Jim Leighton could laugh at one of "the wee papers" yesterday in which a letter writer had opined: "I hope Celtic sign Leighton, because Rangers stuffed 12 goals past him last season ... and he'd make Celtic 1,000-1 against for the title". A Rangers fan, and even Jim Leighton is not being drawn into that Glaswegian family at war.

STEVE MORTON / ALLSPORT



Leighton has bounced back from adversity to recapture his best form in time to help Scotland's World Cup campaign

Supporting cast out to steal show

By Walter Gammie

THE first round of the FA Cup introduces a habitual cast of non-League hopefuls: those, like Altrincham and Enfield, whose appearances are as regular as Christmas pantomime; those making happy comebacks, Hendon and Bromley among them; and those blinking in the glare of unaccustomed exposure, such as Sudbury Town, Consett and Newcastle Town.

Whoever steals the show this afternoon will not have long to savour their success before their destiny in the second round on December 7 is revealed. As for the first round, the draw will be broadcast live on BBC1 at 5.05pm this afternoon.

It means that Newcastle and Notts County, Whitby and Hull City, and Northampton Town and Watford will start their matches tomorrow already knowing the prize that awaits them.

The 13 Vauxhall Conference clubs in action today are, of course, the most likely to eventually progress to the third round. Although last season's tally of non-League survivors was just two — Woking and Gravesend and Northfleet — three seasons ago Kidderminster Harriers reached the fifth round.

Kidderminster have a tough assignment away at Crewe Alexandra, in which the longest-serving managers in the senior reaches of the game — Dario Gradi (appointed June 1983) and Graham Allner (appointed October 1983) — pit their wits against each other. Sammy McIlroy, the Macclesfield Town manager, is preparing to take on Rochdale, whom he turned down the chance to manage two years ago. Farnborough Town will test Barnet, beaten in replays for the past two seasons by Woking.

Stevenage Borough, the Conference champions, should reach the second round for the first time at the expense of struggling Hayes. Altrincham, with 16 wins, will try to equal Yeovil Town's record number of victories for a non-League side against League opposition. They play Preston North End at Deepdale.

Enfield take on Bromley, a fellow Icis League premier division club, who are making their first appearance in the first round for 20 years. Bromley slogged their way through the qualifying rounds and then promptly sold Dean Wordsworth, their striker, to Crystal Palace for £35,000. The money they raised has gone towards rebuilding their Hayes Lane ground, destroyed by fire two years ago.

Hendon, struggling at the bottom of the Icis League premier division, needed seven qualifying round matches to reach the first round for the first time since 1988. They travel to Cardiff City.

First-round day, however, belongs to the likes of Consett, the northern league club from the former steel town who struggle to draw more than 100 supporters on Saturdays. They make only their second appearance in the first round — they lost 5-0 to Doncaster Rovers in 1958 — when they go to Mansfield Town.

They have just one player with Football League experience and, in Steve Brown, a fruit and vegetable stallholder in Gateshead who will get up at 3am, go to work and then, adrenalin pumping, plunge straight into action against the full-time professionals.

Poor relations hoping to strike it rich

By David Maddock

GLYN CHAMBERLAIN is breathless. He has just finished his early shift as a delivery driver for Tesco, and is racing around frantically to catch up. There is plenty of catching up to do. Newcastle Town, the North West Counties League side he manages, make history tomorrow when they appear in the first round of the FA Cup for the first time.

It is a delicious moment, not just for Chamberlain, but for the whole town of Newcastle. It is, of course, Newcastle-under-Lyne, in Staffordshire, not Newcastle upon Tyne. Plenty of people have been trying to make tortuous jokes about an apparent confusion between the two, but really, there can be none, because Town are in a different world to their namesake, United.

Town's wage bill of £350 a week would not even tempt Alan Shearer to get out of bed, and the only big player the non-league side can boast is their 18-stone goalkeeper, Phillip Butler. Still, they are good enough to strike genuine fear into the minds of Notts County, whom they face tomorrow.

Colin Murphy, the County manager, has been under pressure of late, and it could be the end of the line for him should his side lose to the smallest club left in the competition. Town are five levels down the pyramid from the Football League, and defeat would be monumental.

Chamberlain though, believes it is distinctly possible. "There has been a little bit of unrest there, and we can exploit it. I know we are the smallest club left in the competition, but somebody, somewhere is going to cause an upset, and there really is no reason why it can't be us."

None indeed. They were unbeaten this season until Darwen took that proud record away last Saturday. There is plenty of experience in the side. John Burndred, a prolific scorer, was with Port Vale. Andy Holmes played at Stoke City before a bad injury, as did Dave Ritchie, the son of famous Stoke old boy, John.

Cup fever has not exactly gripped the town of Newcastle-under-Lyne, more like stroked it gently. But according to Ken Walshaw, the club's vice-president, there will be a big turnout.

"Our record attendance for a competitive fixture is 730-odd, and our biggest ever 3,600 in a friendly at Stoke, so we should break a few records," he said. "We are expecting anything between 5,000 and 10,000 because there has been tremendous interest.

"The whole town is talking about it. Every shop has a poster. It's just a pity we cannot hold the game at our Lyne Valley ground. We desperately wanted to do that, but the police advised us against it. Anyway, at least we will get a decent crowd at Stoke."

It will certainly surpass the "70 men and a dog," that Chamberlain says normally attend their home games. But this will be no ordinary match. The manager has even managed to get the day off work, for goodness sake, which is not always the case. Last week before the Darwen game he was up at 3am to drive to Thirsk and back in time to be on the bench.

Otherwise, things will be no different than normal, apparently. Extra training maybe? Chamberlain cannot conceal a snort. "All the lads have full-time jobs, including me, so we don't find much time for training, especially because we play twice a week, which means up to 80 games a season. We're too exhausted to train!"

Butler, the goalkeeper, did train last week, with Newcastle United. The FA Carling Premiership leaders used the Lyne Valley Parkway Stadium before a cup-tie with Stoke last season, and relations between the two Newcastles have been strong ever since.

Butler goes into the game tomorrow with the best wishes of the Newcastle United players, and one suspects he may find it just a little easier than during his eye-opening training session. As a home-made banner in one shop window in the town centre proclaimed: "With a name like ours, we've nothing to fear from Notts County."

Taylor happy to man the last line of defence

By Dominique Baldy

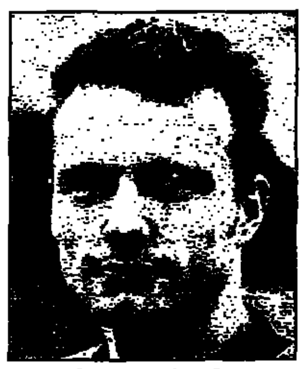
IT IS just over a year since Lance-Corporal Maik Taylor was keeping goal on a part-time basis for Farnborough Town, while pursuing an army career with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. These days, Taylor is a military man no longer, providing instead the last line of defence at Barnet, of the Nationwide League third division, who bought out his army contract for £600 over the summer of 1995 after reports of the soldier's impressive displays in the Vauxhall Conference.

This afternoon, his former team-mates get a chance to renew their acquaintance with him when Barnet travel to Farnborough for a tricky first-round FA Cup tie. The chances are that they will be impressed.

Under the tutorship of Ray Clemence, the former England goalkeeper, who was the Barnet manager until earlier this season, Taylor developed into one of the most highly regarded goalkeepers in the lower divisions.

He is warning his Barnet colleagues that the trip to Hampshire will be no easy matter. "It's vital if we're going to win that we knuckle down and remember how determined they will be to raise their game," he said.

Despite his anxiety, things are going rather well for Taylor. Destined to serve Queen and country at a tender age, having been born to a Services family in Germany, where his father was based, he discovered an aptitude for goalkeeping at the surprisingly late age of 19, when he first played for his army college team because the regular goalkeeper had failed to appear.



Taylor: late developer

On returning to England, he was soon playing for Farnborough, close to where he was based in Hampshire. However, as his reputation grew, he found that his football and army commitments were increasingly difficult to reconcile.

"I didn't go to the Gulf or to Bosnia because the army football teams didn't want to lose me," he said. "It was clear to me that, if I wanted to get on in the Forces, then I would have to go abroad."

Reluctant to give up either football ambitions or to leave behind his future wife, Taylor was considering a return to "Civvy Street" when Barnet made their offer last year. He left the Army two days before his wedding and joined his new club's pre-season training straight from the honeymoon. The subsequent learning curve has been steep: "I'd never been coached properly before at Farnborough, where I'd get around an hour's coaching a week. I learnt untold amounts through working here with Ray Clemence, and his being here was one of the main things that attracted me to the club."

Barnet are now reaping the benefits of that work and Taylor's untypical path into the game has, unsurprisingly, made him readier than some to savour its rewards.

"I appreciate from the Army just how hard it can be out there, and how important it is to work at your game, especially when you're in a career as short as this one inevitably is."

ICE SKATING

Jones takes advantage of British weakness

By John Hennessy

ZOE JONES and Jenna Arrowsmith, from Swindon, took the first two places in the women's short programme at the British figure skating championships at Guildford yesterday. But once you have said that, you have virtually said it all, since not one of the seven competitors was able to produce a clean programme.

Jones had the advantage of skating last and was able to adjust her sights in the knowledge of what had gone before. Thus Lesley Pearce, her coach, decided before she went on the ice that the opening triple flip should be reduced to a double.

Not surprisingly she got away to a sound start but her other two jumps let her down. The triple toe loop in the combination was landed off-balance and she had to introduce a step before the second element, a double toe loop. Towards the end she stumbled off a double axel, a jump well within her command.

All the same, Jones, 16, who travels to Seoul on Monday for the world junior championships, is well on the way to becoming the British senior champion after finishing runner-up for the past two years; and on her way, too, to Paris and Lausanne for the European and world championships after Christmas.

For all the doubts raised yesterday, she would seem to have the measure of her Swindon colleague. Arrowsmith, who was last year unable to defend the title she had won in 1994, is some way from recovering her best form. She barely survived the double axel and fell off a triple salchow.

There was only one successful attempt at a combination, triple salchow to double toe loop, by Georgina Papavasiliou, of East Kilbride, but her other two jumps, triple toe loop and double axel, brought her down to earth.

Ordinarily, the British champion would be an automatic choice for Paris and Lausanne but, unless an impressive winner emerges this afternoon, the Great Britain selectors may have to consider the claims of Stephanie Main. She has been prevented by illness from defending the title she won last year. They would, though, be haunted by the thought that, a year ago, Main was shown to be inadequate at international level. Either way, the selectors are on a hiding to nothing.

SNOOKER

Seven years enough for Spencer

JOHN SPENCER, chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) since 1989, yesterday announced his resignation from that post and as a board member of the game's governing body (Phil Yates writes).

Spencer, 61, three times the world champion, remains one of the most easily recognisable figures on the circuit. Recently, though, a combination of ill-health and criticism from the prominent manager, Ian Doyle, have undermined his position.

"I don't know what triggered John's decision, but ... I hope that whoever takes over the chairmanship recognises the problems within the game and also the enormous potential it possesses," Doyle, whose clients includes Stephen Hendry, said.

Spencer, who took over as chairman from John Virgo, suffers from myasthenia gravis, which requires steroid medication to strengthen the eye muscles and thereby prevent any recurrence of the double vision that forced his retirement from competition five years ago.

In a four-line press release, the WPBSA described Spencer as "a long-serving and respected member of the snooker community" and stated that his resignation will be effective from November 30.

Paul Hunter, last season's most successful rookie, all but guaranteed his place in the last 32 of the £380,000 United Kingdom championship by building an 8-0 lead over Willie Thorne at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

Hunter, 18, stole the first frame on the black but then restricted Thorne to an average of only 19 points in the next seven frames. Neal Foulds was another established player in trouble, trailing Robert Milkins by 6-2.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BATH: International match: England 3 China 2 (England names first: Men's singles: D Hall (Essex) bt Cheng Wei 18-17, 15-4. Women's singles: J Muggeridge (Kent) lost to Liu Lufang 2-11, 4-11. Men's doubles: J Andersen (Essex) and I Pearson (Essex) bt Zhang Jun and Min Zhenyu 15-7, 17-14. Women's doubles: Muggeridge and J Goode (Hertfordshire) lost to Quian Hong and Liu Lu 15-8, 9-15, 17-18. Mixed doubles: N Ponting (Gloucestershire) and Goode bt Ji Xing-Peng and Liu Zhong 15-5, 8-15, 15-10).

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Group A: Panionios (Gr) 81 Ulker Spor (Tur) 74; CSKA Moscow 89 Maccabi Tel Aviv 80; Stefanel Milan 79 Limoges (Fr) 66. Group B: Estudiantes Madrid 82 Alba Berlin 75; Cibona Zagreb 75 Charleroi (Bel) 68. Group C: Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 77 Ljubljana (Slovenia) 89; Villeurbanne (Fr) 78 Split (Cro) 59. Group D: Efes Pilsen (Tur) 83 Partizan Belgrade 77; Kinder Bologna (It) 89 Dynamo Moscow 74.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 99 Toronto 86; Orlando 98 Charlotte 89; Minnesota 100 Dallas 90; Houston 90, Indiana 88; Vancouver 92 Phoenix 89; Golden State 95 Milwaukee 86; Seattle 94 LA Clippers 78

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Sydney: New South Wales 274-7 (S R Waugh 106, M A Taylor 53) v Queensland. Melbourne: Victoria 270-5 (D M Jones 121 not out, I J Harvey 70) v South Australia. Perth: Tasmania 122-1 (J Cox 63) v Western Australia.

Singer Champions' Trophy

New Zealand v Pakistan

SHARJAH (New Zealand won toss): Pakistan beat New Zealand by 41 runs.

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Fleming b Vaughan	1
Aamir Sohail st Germon b Patel	16
Shahid Afridi c Greatbatch b Larsen	21
Ijaz Ahmed c Fleming b Astle	10
Salim Malik lbw b Cairns	40
Azam Khan c Greatbatch b Harris	22
†Moin Khan lbw b Cairns	32
*Wasim Akram c Vaughan b Patel	0
Saqlain Mushtaq lbw b Harris	0
Waqar Younis run out	0
Mushtaq Ahmed not out	4
Extras (lb 12, w 2)	14
Total (48.5 overs)	160

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-32, 3-51, 4-63, 5-116, 6-120, 7-120, 8-138, 9-145.

BOWLING: Vaughan 8-0-33-1; Larsen 9-1-22-1; Cairns 9.5-0-24-2; Astle 3-0-7-1; Harris 9-2-32-2; Patel 10-2-30-2.

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young b Wasim	5
M J Greatbatch c Ijaz b Mushtaq Ahmed	52
A C Parore lbw b Saqlain	22
N J Astle c Mushtaq Ahmed b Saqlain	8
S P Fleming lbw b Waqar	4
C L Cairns lbw b Wasim	8
C Z Harris c Shahid b Mushtaq Ahmed	2
*†L K Germon lbw b Wasim	5
D N Patel lbw b Shahid	1
J T C Vaughan not out	1
G R Larsen b Shahid	0
Extras (w 5, nb 6)	11
Total (38.5 overs)	119

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-88, 3-91, 4-96, 5-102, 6-111, 7-114, 8-117, 9-119.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8-1-20-3; Waqar Younis 8-0-22-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 8-0-32-2; Shahid Afridi 2.5-0-14-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-31-2.

Man of the match: Wasim Akram. Man of the tournament: Waqar Younis.

Umpires: S K Bansal (India) and G Sharp (England).

TOUR MATCHES: Hobart (first day of four): Australia XI 316-0 (M T G Elliott 153 not out, M L Hayden 143 not out) v West Indians. Baroda (first day of three): Indian Board President's XI 178 (S A Ankola 69, P S de Villiers 5-46); South Africans 74-3.

SUPERSPORT SERIES: Cape Town (second day of four): Boland 239; Western Province 336-5 (S G Koenig 118, H D Ackerman 65, J B Commins 53 not out). Pretoria (first day of four): Free State 349-8 (L J Wilkinson 87, J F Venter 76) v Northern Transvaal. East London (first day of four): Border 261 (M Boucher 51). Eastern Province 8-0. Kimberley (first day of four): Transvaal 280-3 (A M Bacher 121 not out, N D McKenzie 84) v Griqualand West.

EQUESTRIANISM

MILLSTREET, Co Cork: Horseware Speed Competition: 1, Laudatus (J Chesney, Ire) 0 in 63.40; 2, Remus Equo (A M Bauer, Austria) 0 in 69.11; 3, Gorana (B Twomey, Ire) 0 in 72.24; 4, Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) 0 in 75.24.

FOOTBALL

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic 0 Rangers 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich 0 Sheffield Utd 0.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Stoke 0 Worcester City 2

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Charlton 6 Aveley 1, Reading 2 Dulwich Hamlet 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Third round: Cannock 0 Aston 1; Redcar 0 Leeds 4; South Tyneside 3 Rotherham 5 (aet). FA Premier League Under-18 Trophy: Cheshire 0 Greater Manchester 3.

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final, first leg: Napoli 1 Lazio 0.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP: Semi-final, second leg: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 1 Santos (Br) 1 (Velez Sarsfield win 3-2 on aggregate)

WORLD CUP: Oceanian qualifying zone: Tonga 1 Western Samoa 0 (at Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Tonga win Polynesian section).

CORRECTION: International match: Andorra 1 Estonia 6 (not as previously published).

DUTCH LEAGUE: PSV Eindhoven 2 Sparta Rotterdam 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	15	11	3	1	46	12	36
Feyenoord	15	11	2	2	27	17	35
Ajax	15	7	6	2	20	11	27
Twente En	14	7	3	4	21	13	24
Graafschap D	14	7	3	4	25	18	24
Heerenveen	15	6	6	3	26	16	24
Vitesse Arnhem	15	6	5	4	25	18	23
RJC Kerkrade	15	6	5	4	17	20	23
Volendam	15	4	6	5	16	20	18
S Rotterdam	16	5	3	8	18	20	18
Utrecht	15	3	8	4	21	21	17
NEC Nijmegen	15	3	7	5	18	24	16
NAC Breda	15	4	3	8	12	24	15
AZ Alkmaar	15	4	2	9	14	19	14
Fortuna Sittard	15	3	5	7	12	26	14
Willem II Tilburg	16	3	4	8	15	27	13
Groningen	14	2	5	7	14	26	11
RKC Waalwijk	15	2	4	9	13	28	10

GOLF

KAUAI, Hawaii: PGA Grand Slam: Final scores (two-round tournament): 134: T Lehman (US) 68, 66. 136: S Jones (US) 70, 66. 139: N Faldo (GB) 67, 72. 147: M Brooks (US) 74, 73.

SYDNEY: Australian PGA championship: Leaders after two rounds: 138: C Gray (Aus) 68, 70; J Cooper (Aus) 70, 68; P Lonard (Aus) 69, 69. 139: W Riley (Aus) 66, 73; J Kelly (US) 73, 66. 140: R Byrd (US) 68, 72; A Painter (Aus) 71, 69. 141: B Roach (Aus) 66, 75; D Smail (NZ) 72, 69. British scores: 143: G Evans 72, 71; D Howell 73, 70. 145: A Rogers 72, 73; B Jackson 68, 77. 146: P McGinley 71, 75, D Clarke 69, 77

MIYAZAKI, Japan: Dunlop Phoenix tournament: Leaders after two rounds (Japan unless stated): 135: M Ozaki 68, 67, L Westwood (GB) 67, 68. 138: T Watson (US) 68, 70. 138: H Meshiai 69, 69, N Ozaki 67, 71. 139: Y Kaneko 69, 70. 141: M Kawamura 73, 68, D Ishii (US) 72, 69; Y Sakamoto 72, 69; R Gamez (US) 72, 69. 142: C Franco (Par) 72, 70, T Nakajima 71, 71; S Okuda 71, 71; F Funk (US) 70, 72. 143: T Ozaki 73, 70; M A Jiménez (Sp) 72, 71; H Sasaki 71, 72; T Izawa 71, 72; L Mize (US) 71, 72; L Nelson (US) 71, 72.

GOLD COAST: Australian women's Masters: Leaders after two rounds: 134: J Crafter (Aus) 69, 65. 136: C Matthew (GB) 65, 71. 137: L Davies (GB) 67, 70, C Dibnah (Aus) 67, 70; W Doolan (Aus) 68, 69. 138: E Gibson (US) 67, 71; J Geddes (US) 69, 69. 139: C Hj Koch (Swe) 70, 69; S Waugh (Aus) 70, 69. 141: J Mills (Aus) 66, 75; S Turner (US) 69, 72; L Neumann (Swe) 69, 72; M Hjorth (Swe) 71, 70; K Parker-Gregory (US) 71, 70. 142: J Stephenson (Aus) 69, 73; R Walton (US) 70, 72; L Lambert (Aus) 70, 72; R Hetherington (Aus) 70, 72; M Lunn (Aus) 68, 74; K Webb (Aus) 73, 69. D Reid (GB) 73, 69. Other British scores: 144: J Morley 72, 72. 146: C Hall 72, 74. 147: D Barnard 74, 73. 149: H Wadsworth 76, 73: K Marshall 74, 75.

CARMONA, Philippines: Men's world amateur team championships: Leading scores after two rounds: 409: Australia 203, 206. 418: Finland 208, 210; Canada 213, 205. 420: Philippines 210, 210; Sweden 210, 210. 421: Great Britain 213, 208. 422: United States 211, 211. 423: New Zealand 215, 208; Spain 213, 210. 424: India 213, 211.

ICE HOCKEY

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final: Hameenlinna (Fin) 5 Sheffield 7

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Pittsburgh 1 (OT); Buffalo 5 Colorado 4; Vancouver 3 New Jersey 0; Washington 5 Philadelphia 2; Calgary 2 Chicago 1 (OT); St Louis 5 Tampa Bay 3, Hartford 2 Phoenix 1. Los Angeles 4 Toronto 1.

ICE SKATING

GUILDFORD: British championships: Men's short programme: 1, S Cousins (Deeside) 0.5 factored places; 2, C Shorten (Stevenage) 1.0; 3, N Wilson (Dundonald) 1.5; 4, S Clays (Deeside) 2.0; 5, S Bell (Solihull) 2.5. Women's short programme: 1, Z Jones (Swindon) 0.5; 2, J Arrowsmith (Swindon) 1.0; 3, K McDermott (East Kilbride) 1.5; 4, T Sear (Oxford) 2.0; 5, G Papavasiliou (East Kilbride) 2.5; 6 equal, K Allan (Dundonald) and F Salim (Romford) 3.0.

PARIS: Lalique Trophy: Ice dance (compulsory) 1, M Anissina and G Peizerat (Fr) .4 factored placings; 2, I Romanova and I Yaroshenko (Ukr) .8; 3, E Punsalen and J Swallow (US) 1.2.

REAL TENNIS

BATHURST CUP: Final: Great Britain lead Australia 2-1 (Great Britain names first: J Acheson-Gray and N Pendrigh lost to M Happell and M Hayward 6-4, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4).

RUGBY UNION

BERMUDA: World rugby classic: Semi-final: Celtic Barbarians 38 Canada 19. Plate: Semi-final: Bermuda/France XV 19 England 17.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Royal Hospital School 19 Gresham's 21

SNOOKER

PRESTON GUILD HALL: German Open (Eng unless stated): Final qualifying round: R O'Sullivan bt K Broughton 5-0. A Hicks bt J Wattana (Thai) 5-1. M Clark bt P Ebdon 5-4. N Bond bt D Finbow 5-2. S Hendry (Scot) bt G Wilkinson 5-4; J Ferguson bt A McManus (Scot) 5-3.

TENNIS

TELFORD: Guardian Direct national championships: Men: Quarter-finals: T Henman (Oxfordshire) bt N Gould (Avon) 6-1, 6-3; P Robinson (Northamptonshire) bt A Richardson (Lincolnshire) 1-6, 7-6, 9-7; G Rusedski (unattached) bt T Spinks (Norfolk) 6-3, 6-0; C Wilkinson (Hampshire and Isle of Wight) bt J Delgado (Warwickshire) 2-6, 6-0, 9-7. Women: Semi-finals: C Taylor (Oxfordshire) bt C Wood (Sussex) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, J Pullin (Sussex) bt L Ahl (Devon) 6-1, 6-4

VILLANOVA, Pennsylvania: Women's tournament: Second round: S Graf (Ger) bt A Frazier (US) 6-2, 6-1. B Paulus (Austria) wo Z Garrison-Jackson (US) scr; Y Basuki (Indo) bt K Po (US) 6-4, 6-4; J Novotna (Cz) bt L McNeil (US) 6-4, 7-5; A Miller (US) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5. Quarter-finals: M Werdel-Witmeyer (US) bt Paulus 6-2, 6-3; Novotna bt Miller 6-3, 6-0.

HARTFORD, Connecticut: ATP world doubles championship: Round-robin: S Lareau (Can) and A O'Brien (US) bt L Pimek (Bel) and B Talbot (SA) 6-1, 6-3; B Black (Zim) and G Connell (Can) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) and N Kulti (Swe) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4. T Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Eltingh (Holl) and P Haarhuis (Holl) 4-6, 7-6, 7-6. M Knowles (Bah) and D Nestor (Can) bt T Kronemann (US) and D MacPherson (Aus) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3

VOLLEYBALL

TOKYO: Women's world super challenge: Cuba 3 China 1, South Korea 3 Thailand 0; Brazil 3 Japan 0.

RACING 46-47
Big Matt ready
to spring into
action at Cheltenham

SPORT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 1996

TENNIS 49
Champion succumbs
to Taylor's
tenacity at Telford

Ferguson prepares for test of strength

By David Maddock and Russell Kempson

THE plan, according to Alex Ferguson, was always to concentrate first on Europe and catch up in the FA Carling Premiership later. After a diastrous run of four defeats, things have changed. Today, Arsenal visit Old Trafford and all thoughts of Europe must be dismissed.

It is a game Manchester United cannot afford to lose, even at this stage of the season. Defeat would mean, in all probability, a gap of 11 points developing between Newcastle United, the leaders, and the champions.

They have been there before, of course, but this time it is more significant, because Arsenal would also enjoy a buffer of nine points and Liverpool, should they win today and do the same in their match in hand, would be ten points ahead.

That is why a sombre Ferguson described his side's next two games as "massive". United entertain Juventus in the European Cup Champions' League four days after the visit of Arsenal and their season's ambition will be defined in the course of those days.

"I know things will turn around for us, but I hope it is as quick as possible," Ferguson said. "A win is what we need. It will give us confidence, but more importantly, it will peg Arsenal back, because we don't want too many sides getting too far ahead while we are still occupied by Europe."

Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's latest Italian recruit, is likely to make his debut in England on the substitutes' bench when they play Blackburn Rovers in the FA Carling Premiership at Ewood Park this afternoon. Zola has settled well but Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, is not keen to disrupt his side.

Should United lose — and that is not such an unlikely prospect against second-placed Arsenal — it will extend their sequence of league defeats to four, a run not endured since Dave Sexton's reign in the 1978-79 season.

Ferguson does not anticipate such a scenario. He accepts his team has lost confidence — a natural response to such adversity — but believes it will come back quickly. "A good win will help. The players just have to trust their ability and keep going. If they can do that, it will return."

Ferguson refutes all talk of a crisis at Old Trafford, saying his team is enduring nothing more than a bad run, something his United sides have experienced before. "Last season in December, we won only one of six, and when we won our first title, we didn't win our first five."

That season, the arrival of Eric Cantona turned things around, but this season, the problems appear to stem from the Frenchman's obvious loss of form. Again, Ferguson refuses to countenance criticism of his forward, or his manner of captaincy. "Sure, Eric has suffered a little loss of confidence like everyone else, but is that strange? I don't think so. It can happen to anyone and there is no problem with Eric. There has been comments about his captaincy, but there are different types of captains. Bobby Moore wasn't a leader that shouted, he led by example, and Eric is the same. He is excellent on the training field and the players love him."

Ferguson points to a good record, historically, against Arsenal, and to the return of Ryan Giggs, which he believes will offer much-needed balance. A certain emphasis will be lost though, through the suspension of Roy Keane, a player vital to United.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has yet to experience defeat in six matches since his belated move from Nagoya Grampus Eight, of Japan, to Highbury. Yet he accepts that the trip to Old Trafford will pose his biggest test so far. "We have not played the top teams," he said. "I don't really know what this side is capable of achieving, but it is playing well and I see no reason to change it. It is too early to say that this one match will have a big effect on the championship, but if we get a good result, it will help us psychologically and may damage United's confidence."

Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal defender, has recovered from a hamstring injury, but John Hartson, the Wales striker, is still suspended.

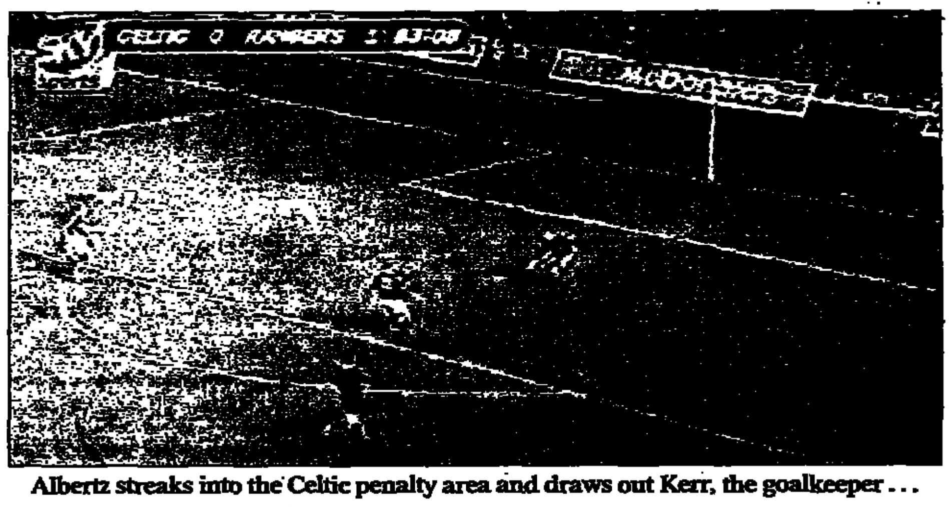
If United's problems need to be put into context, then relief comes from across the road at Manchester City. There, fans are demonstrating against Francis Lee, the chairman, and his board, while, Georgi Kinkladze, the supporters' idol, is unsettled. The team lies in eighteenth place in the Nationwide League first division.

Barcelona, led by Bobby Robson, contacted Maine Road yesterday to enquire about the £5 million-rated Kinkladze, but Lee denied brusquely that anyone is leaving, including himself. "Georgi is happy to stay with us at least until the end of the season," he said. "As far as my own position is concerned, I will not be resigning. We have done good things at this club, even though they might not be evident immediately, and I intend to stay around to enjoy the success we are certain will come."

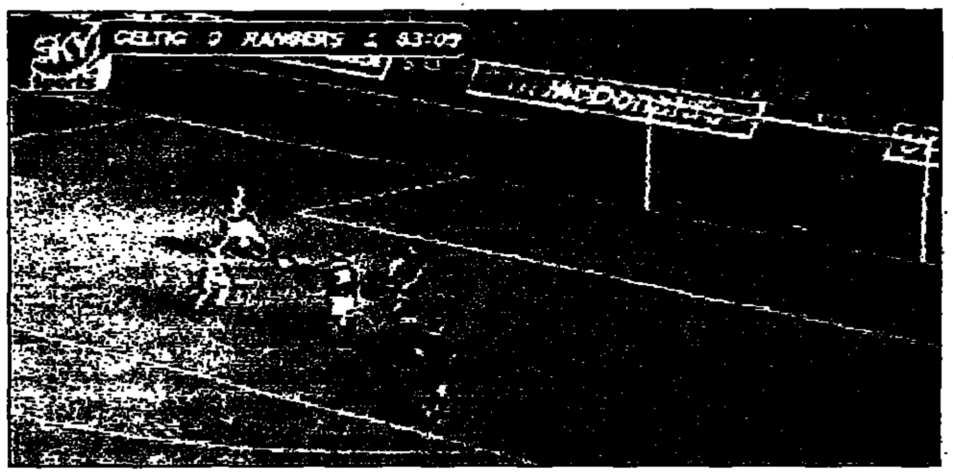
Premiership guide, page 50
Cup of hope, page 51
Leighton's goal, page 51

Was this football's greatest miss ever?

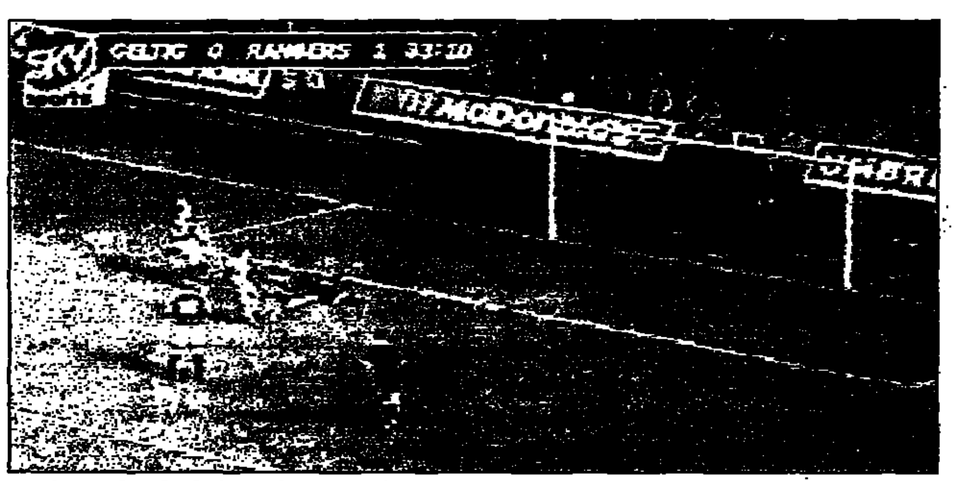
With nobody to beat and only eight yards out, Van Vossen, the Rangers striker, enters the Hall of Shame by calmly lifting the ball into the crowd behind the Celtic goal



Albertz streaks into the Celtic penalty area and draws out Kerr, the goalkeeper . . .



. . . unselfishly, he slips the ball to Van Vossen, who has a clear sight of the goal . . .



. . . but, with the ball under control, Van Vossen unaccountably scoops it over the bar

Keith Pike analyses a blunder that will be cherished by connoisseurs of ineptitude

Statistics are all very well, but football is ultimately a game of opinions, and yesterday a nation was united: Peter van Vossen's miss in the Old Firm derby at Celtic Park on Thursday has earned him a prominent and unwanted place in the strikers' Hall of Shame.

Miss, indeed, hardly does justice to the moment. It ranks alongside the fluffed short-range putt that cost Doug Sanders the 1970 Open at St Andrews and Don Fox's sliced penalty, the last kick of the 1968 rugby league Challenge Cup final at Wembley that would have won the trophy for Wakefield Trinity.

Only the 50,041 packed into Celtic's throbbing ground and those who were watching Sky TV can join in the vilification of Van Vossen, but the incident is scheduled for a thousand replays.

Van Vossen, a Dutchman, had entered the fray as a substitute 12 minutes from time, with Rangers clinging to Brian Landrup's early goal and having missed a penalty when Gascoigne's effort was saved by Kerr. Van Vossen's chance, though, was easier than Gascoigne's, for the Celtic goalkeeper was scarcely in the picture.

Van Vossen had started the move with an interception in his own half. An exchange with Gascoigne, a pass forward and a marginal on-side decision later, Albertz was through, bearing down on Kerr's goal with Van Vossen in support on the left and the Celtic defence an irrelevance.

Albertz unselfishly drew the goalkeeper and passed to his left. There was Van Vossen and there, eight yards away, was an empty goal. Your grandmother would have scored. Van Vossen, right-footed, did not, a swing of his right boot sending the ball into the crowd.

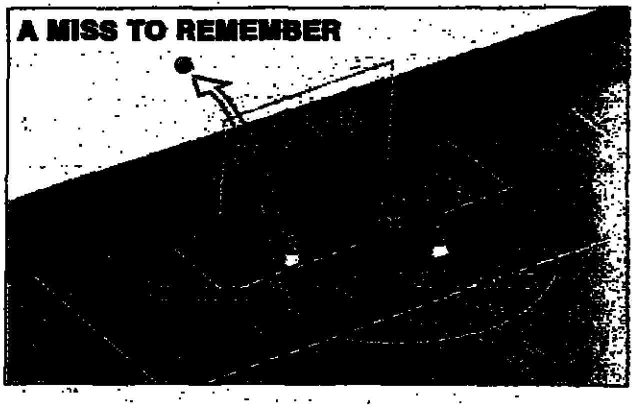
Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, stood and turned his back. Van Vossen had been valued at around £2 million when Smith signed him from Turkey. At that moment, Smith would have returned him for change.

It was a mistake by Van Hooijdonk, another Dutch striker, whose subsequent penalty was saved by Goram, which was to have more bearing on the result, yet the great question was where did Van Vossen's miss stand in the all-time list?

But for Gordon Banks and *that* save against Pelé in 1970, Jeff Astle's sad toe poke wide in the same match would have earned even greater notoriety, while among the favourites from the domestic game are Ronnie Rosenthal for Liverpool against Aston Villa — he hit the bar having rounded Nigel Spink, the goalkeeper — and Roger Davies, of Derby County, who did the same at Chelsea but then fell over.

My favourite, though, was not even a goalscoring chance. As Gary Penrice, the Watford striker, recalled: "Bobby Gould took a corner at Norwich and broke the flag. The ball never even moved."

A MISS TO REMEMBER



Bosnich fined £1,000 by FA

By John Goodbody

MARK BOSNICH, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, was yesterday found guilty of misconduct and fined £1,000 by the Football Association for his mimicking of Adolf Hitler at Tottenham Hotspur on October 12. His Nazi-style salute provoked uproar at White Hart Lane, where many of the supporters are Jewish. Bosnich is being investigated by police and could still be prosecuted for his action.

A three-man disciplinary commission heard yesterday, at a hearing lasting 1hr 20min, that the Australian goalkeeper, 24, had been subjected to "abusive chanting" from the home crowd during the FA Carling Premiership game. The FA said that Bosnich told the commission that his gesture was intended as a "Basil Fawlty-style joke". The commission added: "He was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish following and was devastated at the reaction to the incident."

The commission, chaired by Geoff Thompson, had decided that, while Bosnich's action was one of stupidity, it was "not his intention to cause offence or to be insulting. He apologised publicly, quickly and profusely." Bosnich was also severely censured and warned as to his future conduct.

The player said of the decision that it was a matter of "common sense prevailing".

He added: "Let us hope we have put this incident behind us and I can get on with my career. I think it is time to get on with the football. There are more important things going on than this case. I'm sick of hearing my own voice."

He said that perhaps the best thing to have come out of the incident was that it had been "a great lesson for me" and that it had also raised the awareness of racism in the sport. He said he was fully supportive of the campaign entitled "Let's Kick Racism Out of Football".

Bosnich admitted: "Sometimes in life when you do things that are wrong then you should come out openly and say: 'Sorry, OK, I'm a young boy, I am 24, I made a mistake.' That is the way it goes."

The Tottenham supporters had taunted Bosnich over his clash two years earlier with Jürgen Klinsmann, the club's former striker. The Germany international had been knocked unconscious at Villa Park after a challenge by Bosnich.

☐ Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) chief executive, has been reported to the disciplinary committee of Fifa, football's world governing body, over comments made concerning the decision to replay Scotland's "match that never was" with Estonia. The letter informing the SFA of the matter was addressed to Bill Dickie, its president, and he has asked Fifa for clarification of the specific allegations.

Johansson sorry for racial slur

LENNART JOHANSSON, the president of Uefa, football's European governing body, apologised yesterday for the allegedly racist comments he made on a recent trip to South Africa (Russell Kempson writes). The comments were reported in *Aftonbladet, a Swedish newspaper*, in an interview after his visit.

Johansson, who is also vice-president of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, was quoted as saying: "When I arrived in South Africa, the whole room was full with blackies and it gets damned dark when they're sitting together. If they also get angry, it's not so damned merry."

He said yesterday: "I don't recognise my own expressions. I never had racial ideas, on the contrary. If such an opinion was made, it was not my meaning. If I hurt anyone, I can only say I am sorry."

Feethams five savour long-term benefits

By Russell Kempson

MANY clubs in the FA Carling Premiership pay their players and officials vast sums in wages; many clubs in the Nationwide League do, too. At Darlington, though, the financial gravy train went right off the rails. The struggling third division club found itself paying five managers ... at the same time.

Such absurd largesse came to light when Bernard Lowery, the Darlington chairman, presented the club's annual report for the year ending June 30. It revealed that Frank Gray, Ray Hankin, Billy McEwan, Alan Murray and Eddie Kyle — all past managers at Feethams — had still been paid long after they had left the North East club.

"Reckless contracts brought us to our knees," Lowery said. "At one stage, when we had all these managers being paid simultaneously, only a substantial injection of capital kept us afloat." Gray left the club four years ago and was succeeded, in order, by Hankin, McEwan and Murray. Kyle was never full-time manager. He was assistant to Murray and assumed a brief caretaker's role when Paul Futcher, who took over from Murray, departed last year. Futcher, apparently, did not receive any belated payments.

Darlington, who are languishing in 23rd place in the third division, still showed a profit of more than £100,000 last year. Peter Thorns, chairman of the supporters' club, said: "All this shows is that the management of the club in the past has been appalling."

Darlington dismissed another manager, Jim Platt, last weekend and he has been replaced by David Hodgson, who previously shared the duties of director of coaching with Platt. It is not known if Platt is still on the payroll.

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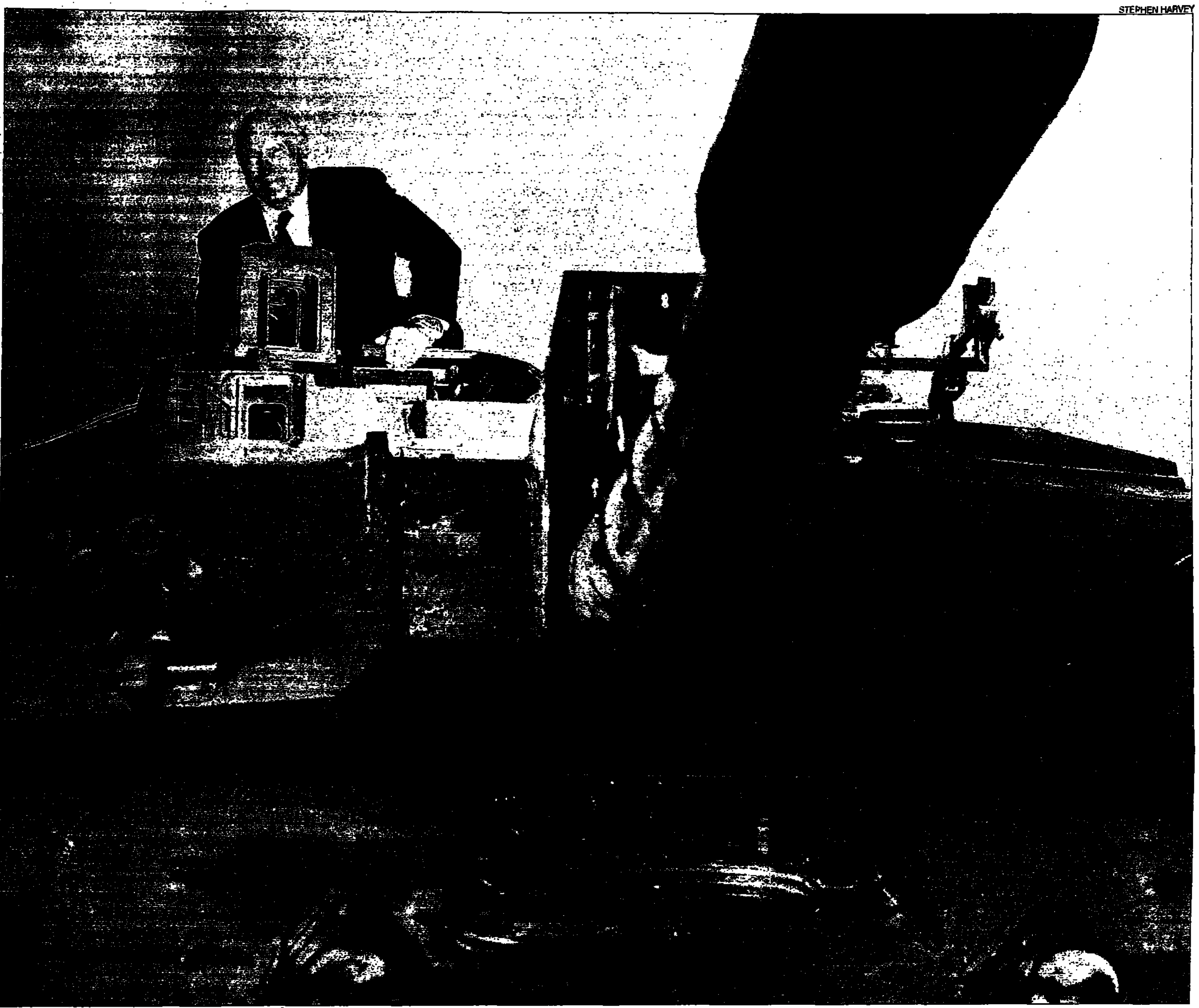
THE TIMES
weekend
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16 1996

Challenge for an old soldier

Britain's new Challenger 2 may be a winner — but has the tank had its day? By **ALISTAIR HORNE**

STEPHEN HARVEY



Alistair Horne, who trained in Cromwell tanks with the Coldstream Guards 50 years ago, tries out Britain's new Challenger 2 at the Royal Armoured Corps range in Dorset. Verdict: "Child's play"

Hunched above me in the cramped turret of Britain's new wonder tank, Challenger 2 (CR2), the commander, Sergeant Taylor, shouts down the intercom "Fin-Tank". Into the vast breech of the 120mm gun, with a barrel as long as a telegraph pole, Staff Sergeant Gough stuffs an armour-piercing round, a 15lb dart with fins, then shouts "Loaded".

In the gunner's seat to his right, I jiggle with the control button, rather like a lap-top computer mouse. It is alarmingly sensitive and the gun seems to swing all over Lulworth Cove. Optimistically, I squeeze the trigger.

The whole tank jumps, the sight is blotted out by a huge plume of flame. Almost instantly, with the shell travelling at a mile a second, a flash appears on the "enemy tank" 1,200 yards away, and Sgt Taylor announces "Target".

Next time I am not so lucky. Under pressure to finish, I get confused with the complexity of switches under my left hand and, instead of hitting the one for the laser range-finder, hit the button for the thermal night sight — the top-secret gadget which destroyed Saddam Hussein's Russian-built tanks in the Gulf War.

Everything goes green in the eye-piece, and I lose the target. Groping to put things right, I operate the machinegun button by mistake. Crucial seconds pass, in which time our tank has almost certainly been "brewed up" by the enemy. Eventually I press the right button. Sgt Taylor observes "Target", and a second Russian T-80 bites the dust.

In an amazingly short time I destroy three enemy tanks. A strong suspicion lingers that my aim may have been corrected by Sgt Taylor, utilising the commander's "Hunter-Killer" sight, which permits him to override an incompetent gunner or lock-on to a fresh target. Nevertheless . . . it all seemed like child's play.

Much has changed since my day with tanks. The last time I saw the inside of a British tank was in 1945. I had just been commissioned into the Coldstream, bound for the Guards Armoured Division. But the fighting in Europe ended, and General Montgomery took our tanks away. I never fired a round in anger.

One thing was painfully clear then, however: how inferior the Allied tanks were, all through the Second World War, compared with the German Panthers and terrifying Tigers with their dreaded 88mm shells.

We trained in Cromwell tanks but the armour was paper-thin and, at 28 tons, weighed no more than the turret of today's CR2. Or there were the 32-ton American Shermans — with a 75mm pea-shooter that bounced off the Tigers at any range above 200 yards — unpleasantly nicknamed Ronsons (one flick and they light), or (by the Germans) Tommy Cookers.

Against a Panther, the Shermans were, in Monty's words, "useless, quite useless". They had some advantages: easy to maintain and so spacious you could kip down on the turret floor. But, above all, Detroit produced so many of them (88,410 tanks to 24,630 German) that the Panzers were worn down by sheer weight of numbers.

Then, in 1945, Britain produced the Centurion tank, the best of its generation. It helped Israel win two wars, but for us it was "the right tank a war too late". I wrote as much two years ago in *The Lonely Leader: Monty 1944-1945*, resulting in an invitation to spend a day at Bovington Camp, Dorset, the headquarters of the Royal Armoured Corps.

The mood there was very upbeat. The previous week at the range, reps from 20 countries had seen the CR2 demolish six targets within 26 seconds, at ranges of more than 2,000 yards — a remarkable achievement. The enthusiasm of Bovington's tank experts was plain; for the first time since the 1960s they had a world-beater.

During the Gulf War, the combination of the 120mm gun, British thermal sights and American GPS (global positioning system) enabled its predecessor, Challenger 1, to destroy Iraqi tanks before they could even be seen. One British tank is reputed to have knocked out an enemy at the extreme range of 5,400 metres — 3.35 miles. But their engines were highly unreliable, causing General Sir Peter de la Billière, then the commander of the British forces, to grumble that every time the British 1st Armoured Division moved five kilometres one tank was expected to break down. Now, they claim at Bovington, the new engine can be trusted to propel a CR2 the 800 miles from Fallinböstel in Germany to the Pyrenees without breakdown. Instead of the sweat we had in 1945 of having to use a vast spanner periodically to adjust track tension, (otherwise, in the midst of battle, the tracks could fall off), the driver now simply operates levers on his control panel.

A new, superbly smooth hydrogas suspension and gun-stabiliser permits the tank to fire on the move with lethal accuracy.

The CR2 is a "97 per cent new tank". Only 18 have been produced so far, and it will be 1998 before the army is fully equipped with them. Relations between Vickers, the manufacturer, and the "consumers" are unusually harmonious. But this time the military is determined to be hard-nosed in getting exactly what it wants.

After watching a video of a CR2 going through its paces in slow motion, charging at the camera like some monster out of *Jurassic Park*, gun swinging right and left at phenomenal speed, sand-boiling out of its tracks, we are taken to drive the real thing. Incongruously, it has an L-plate stuck on its rear.

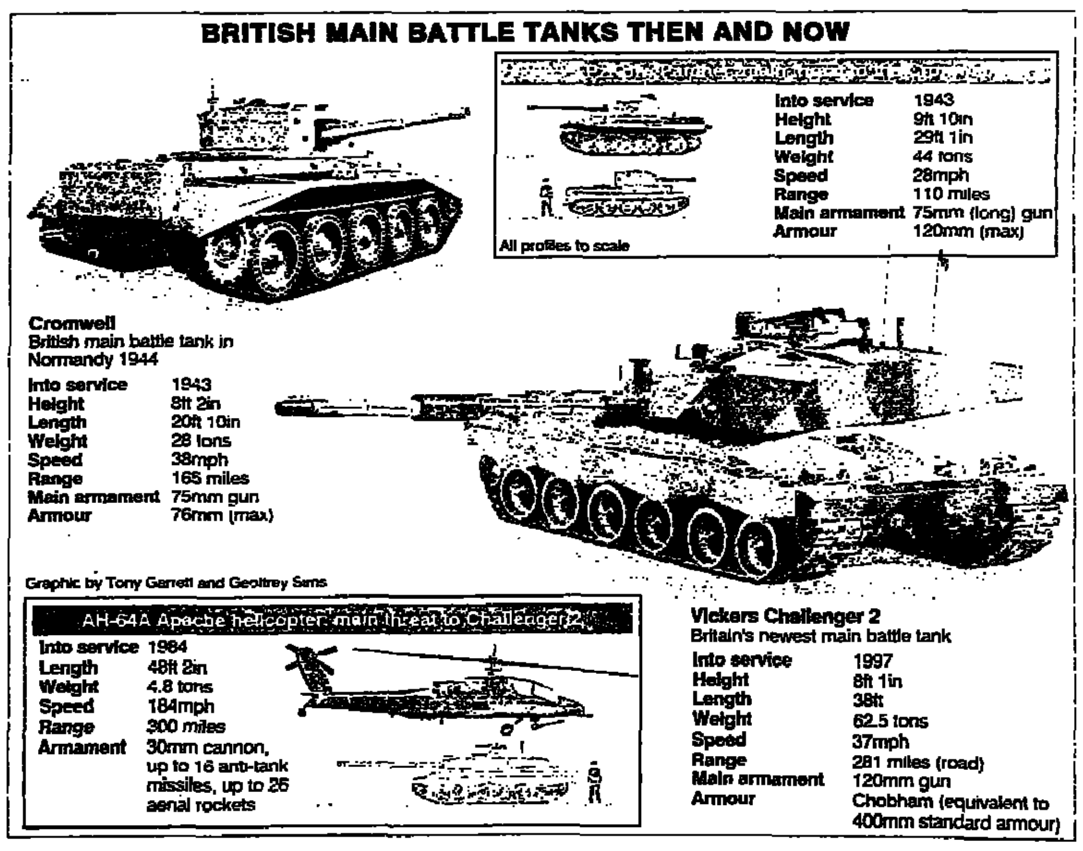
To ensure the critical low profile of the modern tank, when closed down the driver controls its 62 tons almost lying down, peering through periscopes. Instead of the great manual gear lever of the Sherman, which rattled one's funny-bone, he has a six-speed automatic gear, with override, like any modern car.

A convincing roar from the rear end, and the CR2 surges forward with a motion gentler than a sailboat in choppy weather. While not exactly a Ferrari, the acceleration is impressive; in seconds the needle is flickering on 50kph (about 31mph), well above its specified mean cross-country speed.

Suddenly, just ahead, a near-vertical wall as high as a house looms up. In a calm voice, the instructor, Corporal White, tells Trooper Skeels somewhere down below us: "Right. Slow down now, change into bottom gear . . . Accelerate." All we can see is sky. "Halt." We balance on the knife edge at the top. "Now dead slow

Continued on page 2

BRITISH MAIN BATTLE TANKS THEN AND NOW



[illegible]

Into service	1943
Height	9ft 10in
Length	29ft 1in
Weight	44 tons
Speed	28mph
Range	110 miles
Main armament	75mm (long) gun
Armour	120mm (max)

Cromwell
British main battle tank in Normandy 1944

Into service	1943
Height	8ft 2in
Length	20ft 10in
Weight	28 tons
Speed	38mph
Range	165 miles
Main armament	75mm gun
Armour	76mm (max)

AH-64A Apache helicopter: main threat to Challenger 2

Into service	1984
Length	48ft 2in
Weight	4.8 tons
Speed	184mph
Range	300 miles
Armament	30mm cannon, up to 16 anti-tank missiles, up to 26 aerial rockets

Vickers Challenger 2
Britain's newest main battle tank

Into service	1997
Height	8ft 1in
Length	38ft
Weight	62.5 tons
Speed	37mph
Range	281 miles (road)
Main armament	120mm gun
Armour	Chobham (equivalent to 400mm standard armour)

Graphic by Tony Garrett and Geoffrey Sims

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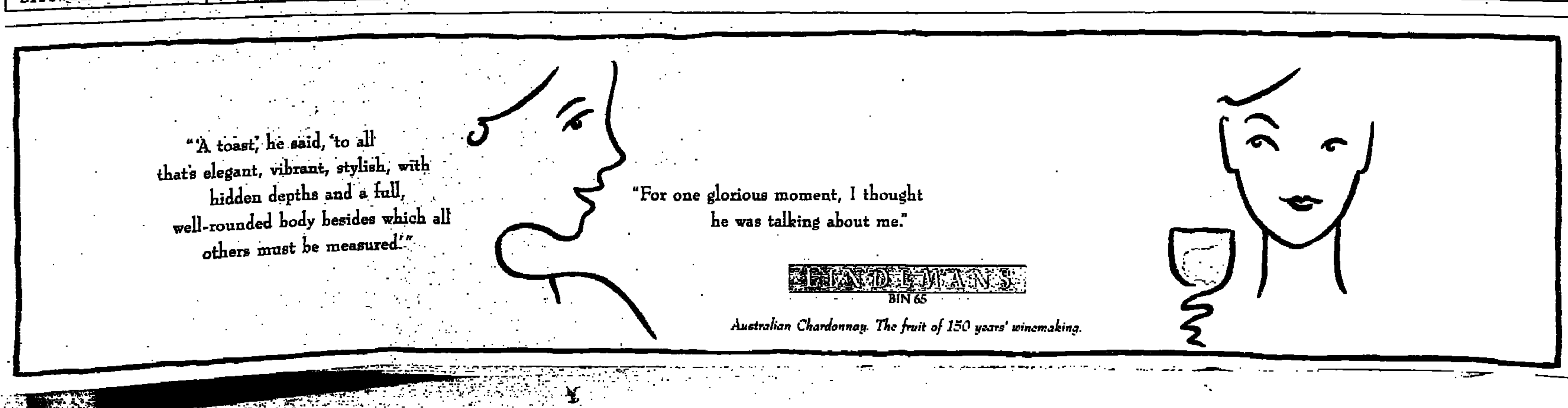

"'A toast,' he said, 'to all that's elegant, vibrant, stylish, with hidden depths and a full, well-rounded body besides which all others must be measured.'"

"For one glorious moment, I thought he was talking about me."

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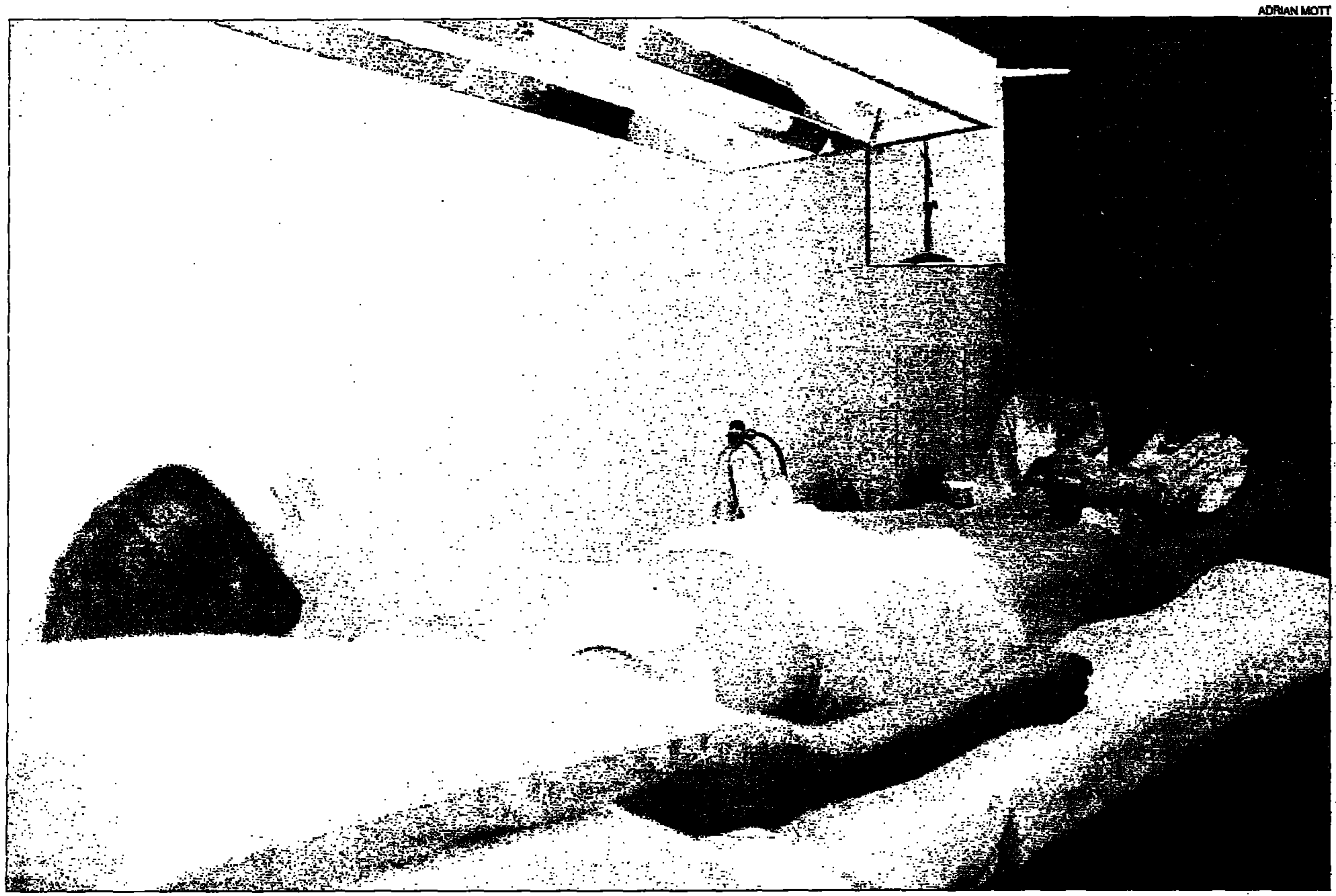
ADRIAN MOTT



Light therapy and reflexology are said to produce a wide-ranging series of results, and, unlike the patient above, it isn't necessary to take off almost all your clothes to benefit

Let there be light for winter

I am a foot fetishist. Ever since Michelangelo said a woman's beauty could be *judged by her feet*, mine have enjoyed due respect. So what could be more *heavenly than to lie back last* week and have my feet oiled, massaged, kneaded, pampered and played with for an hour? No husband is as patient. And all this on a June summer's day. It could have been a lazy afternoon punting on the Cherwell.

No, time travel is not my latest discovery. In fact, I was lying under fluorescent lights which simulate a midsummer's midday. This is light therapy and reflexology combined. They don't have to be, but you feel you are *getting more out of it if the* therapist isn't filing her nails while you lie back.

The light therapist Renee Ganger at the Hale Clinic in Regent's Park, London, throws in colour therapy too. This involved looking at differently coloured bottles and choosing four shades I felt most in tune with at the start of the session. All mine were red and pink. This meant I was full of beans and zest, Ms Ganger said, but could be in danger of overdoing things.

Then at the end of the session she asked which colours I would now select. I *went for shades of green and* blue. Triumphant, Ms Ganger explained that this showed the treatment had worked because of my choice of calmer, cooler colours.

I'm afraid this colour stuff was beyond me, but I did better with the theory of light therapy. Now this is scientifically grounded, and makes eminent sense. In 1903, the Danish doctor Niels Finsen was awarded the Nobel prize for medicine for showing that light therapy could treat skin tuberculosis. Since then *it has been used to treat acne*, psoriasis and seasonal affective disorder (Sad).

Listen up. At least 10 per cent of the population are thought to suffer from Sad, which causes depression, lethargy and insomnia in winter, and light therapy is apparently the only solution. Natural sunlight is in even shorter supply in cities where pollution conspires with office life and travelling by car, train or Underground to deprive us.

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING...

by

RACHEL KELLY

LIGHT THERAPY

● **WHAT IT IS:** Light therapy uses artificial light to *modify behaviour or health* ● **ADVANTAGES:** Improves bone and joint conditions, insomnia, some skin conditions and lowers blood pressure ● **DISADVANTAGES:** Be careful not to take vitamin D as well if you go regularly, as you could overdose ● **COST:** Around £40 a session.

So we need light as we need food or air. I lay fully dressed except for bare legs and no glasses (they block the light) under something that looks a bit like a sunbed *with long fluorescent tubes* which emit a bright white light reminiscent of strip *lighting in the school gym.* Therapists say it helps to expose a bit of skin. The light includes all the colours of the rainbow and is known as "full spectrum" light.

The intensity is roughly 3,000 lux, the unit by which light is measured. The average intensity of daylight is 5,000 lux, while indoors it is 500 to 1,000 lux.

Herewith the benefits. The light stimulates the forma*tion of vitamin D which* helps strong bones and teeth by aiding the absorption of calcium, magnesium and phosphorous. Thus those with osteoporosis, arthritis, dental caries and menopausal problems all particularly benefit. Light helps *lower blood pressure by* dilating blood vessels, and thus improving circulation.

Light absorbed through the eyes hits a gland called the pineal gland. This produces serotonin, dubbed the "feel-good" hormone, and melatonin, which governs sleep. Too much melatonin, and we can feel depressed and lethargic. The light therapy helps balance the serotonin and the melatonin, stabilising our moods, improving our sleep, boosting our immune systems and helping tissue repair.

"But what of skin cancer? And wrinkles?" I ventured to *Ms Ganger.*"*The harmful* ultraviolet rays are screened out, and responsible use will not damage the skin or eyes," she reassured me.

Her own feet-twiddling was marked by its gentleness. My previous brush with reflexology had been a painful one. The theory is that each part of the body is mirrored on the feet in precise locations known as reflexes. Ms Ganger has a *map. She stimulated the* nerve endings on my feet, allowing the body's own *healing to work, tension to* reduce and my circulation to improve which in turn helps flush out toxins. So wide-ranging are the results that it was difficult to tell after the *session whether it had* "worked". Certainly, it was an utterly hedonistic hour *while it lasted and I felt* serene and relaxed afterwards though back to my *usual zesty, lively, over*-wrought self that afternoon.

The only caveat: wash your feet before you go or it's like going to the dentist if you haven't flossed.

SPECIALISTS

■ The Hale Clinic, 7 Park Crescent, London W1 (0171-631 0156): £60 an hour, including reflexology.

■ Champneys' London Club, basement of Le Meridien Hotel, 21 Piccadilly, W1V 0BH (0171-437 8114): £55 an hour for physiotherapy and reflexology, including Light Therapy.

■ *Champneys' Health* Farm, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6HY (01442 863351): £55 an hour for physiotherapy and reflexology, including Light Therapy.

■ Spectra-Light, York House, Lower Harlestone, Northampton NN7 4EW (01604 821902), sells low-*maintenance*, transportable lights for £260, incl. VAT and delivery.

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SERIOUS SHOPPING

by

GILES COREN

PETROL STATIONS

Sitting in the inside lane of a metropolitan dual carriageway, queueing behind 14 cars for the next available petrol pump, I often ponder the emergence of the garage shop.

A kind of road rage comes over me. I want to tailgate Mr Texaco for a couple of miles, flashing my lights and honking like a maniac, force him to pull over, and then chew a hole in his windscreen with my teeth.

No jury of my peers would ever convict. They, too, would have known what *it is* to be late for work; next in the queue for the pump, when the *bloke in front fills up, puts* the cap back on, takes his jacket from its hook in the backseat and disappears into the shop.

Trapped by the queue behind you, you can go nowhere. In front of his car the next two pumps have become vacant, but no one can get to them. You can see *him in the* shop, leafing through an amateur photography magazine. Then he selects some frosted donuts and gets himself a coffee. The days tick by. He buys some Lottery scratchcards and scratches them at the counter. He wins £2, so he buys some more. He rummages through the display of cassettes. Eventually, he pays. The credit-card slip signed, he turns to go. Then turns back and points at the cigarettes. The *man* behind the counter fetches a packet of Silk Cut. He has *to pay cash now. They* hold his note up to the light to check it. The till operator asks his colleague if he has any twenties. The man gets his change, and slides the notes into his wallet one by one.

He walks slowly back to his car sucking on a donut. He hangs his jacket in the back. He climbs into the car. He dials a *number on his mobile* phone, switches on the ignition, and pulls gently *away without so much as* a raise of the hand.

Bored with *this little* story? Write to your MP.

It is time something was *done. The English* being by nature a mistrustful, selfish race, this garage shopping *simply* doesn't work. On the Continent, where they have been doing it for years, people buy their petrol and then move their car before going in to pay. English people can't be bothered with that, and if you do try it the staff come running out thinking you are a fuel-lifter. And anyway, there is nowhere to put the car. That would waste retailing space.

Garage shops used to deal purely in cigarettes and girlie mags. Now they have Dunkin Donuts, Chicken Tonight, tinned ham, fake *cappuccino*, microwaveable "Hot 'n' Crispy" fish and chips and "authentic doner kebabs". The fags and porn were healthier.

Then they have drive-thru fast food joints, where you have to *keep your face* close to the petrol nozzle as you fill, allowing the vapours to cover the stomach-turning whiff of frying fat. Again, the animal by-products on sale are a distraction to the person in the car in front.

> 'If you move your car the staff think you are a fuel-lifter'

The modern garage is a monument to everything that is sad and ruinous in Britain: not *only* roads and cars, but fast food marketing, the Lottery, and cook-in sauces.

So why *do* these shops exist? Because we are *dealing with a breed of* retailer that charges customers for air, and they *know that* those lead vapours have not only long term, but short-term deleterious effects on your health. They drive you temporarily mad, and make you think you want to go shopping. It is the ultimate *statement* in modern retail: chemically zombify your customer, *then peddle him products* that will either kill him, impoverish him, or make him both very unhappy and seriously ill.

'Four Apaches could stop a whole tank division'

Continued from page 1

forward." All 62 tons of tank settles on the downward slope without a crunch.

Back on level ground, much more of a crash comes, and helmets fly off when, over some bumps, Cpl White orders: "Now let's see if we can get it in the air." We do.

Brilliant as it may be, does the Main Battle *Tank (MBT), such as* the CR2 have a future? Almost ever since General Haig *unleashed tanks*, prematurely, on the battlefield of Flanders 80 years ago, *armchair critics and wiser* heads have argued periodically that the tank was obsolete.

Now, the attack helicopter and sophisticated weaponry *seem to threaten its future* more than ever before. Though obviously interested parties, Bovington points out that, since the Second World War, successive conflicts in the Middle East have proved that there is still no weapon as effective against the heavy tank as its opposite number.

The three keys to defeating a threatening force are still mobility, fire power and durability.

Devastatingly, the attack helicopter can now provide the first two, but only the heavy tank can provide the third. Traditionally infantrymen will not attack, or hold ground, unless supported by tanks. Only a tank can hold ground, while a lightly armoured vehicle runs constant risk of being knocked out by artillery, or even infantry weapons.

Also, in a situation such as Bosnia, the psychological deterrent — the "shock action" factor — of the Jurassic-like menace of the heavy tank *is wonderfully persuasive in* keeping the peace. And what does Israel threaten to do in *its present civil crisis?* Bring up the tanks.

The tank most likely to confront Challenger anywhere in the world is almost certain to be Russian, and the new generation of Russian tanks will, for sure, have the thermal sight and global positioning system. A more sophisticated foe than Saddam may be able to jam, or even shoot out of space, the American satellites essential to providing accurate map reading.

What this would mean in featureless terrain such as the desert was made plain to me by Major-General Patrick Cordingley, who commanded the 7th Armoured Brigade in the Gulf: "We 'lost' a satellite, and for a while the whole division had to come to a grinding halt."

Can we afford CR2, and can we sell it abroad? Inevitably, the two are interdependent. At £3 million a time, by the year 2000 Britain will be able to afford only eight armoured regiments, with a total of 304 tanks. Depressingly, this will put us 47th in the world league; 17 countries have 2,000-plus tanks; Israel, for example, has 4,000 (most now of her own fabrication), but then, she spends ten times as much of her GNP on defence as Britain.

Partly because of the engine unreliability of Challenger 1, the competition against the American Abrams, the German Leopard and the French Leclerc has been jeopardised. The Abrams is cheaper and has a highly trustworthy gas turbine engine but it guzzles fuel and leaves a thermal "footprint" like a searchlight. Bovington also questions the versatility of its smooth-bore gun.

However, from an export standpoint, the Challenger's engine seems disappointing. A new version, specially designed for the desert, which Vickers hope will be bought by Gulf nations, comes off the shelf with a more potent German engine than CR2's. The jury is still out.

A problem *common* to all the Western contenders is whether the technology *of all* current MBT models will prove too complex to master. *In terms of* weight, gunpower, armour and engine, CR2 has now almost certainly reached the limits of heavy-tank development.

Ahead lies the possibility of a lighter vehicle, equipped with an electro-magnetic gun. But this is all 25 years away.

Meanwhile, all tanks face a new menace: "Top attack", where their armour is *most* vulnerable, either from helicopter missiles fired from three miles away, *or from* "smart" artillery projectiles, or jumping mines. This means fresh armour headaches for tanks already at their weight limits.

On paper, a flight of four Apache helicopters equipped with Longbow Hellfire missiles could destroy virtually a whole armoured division — in minutes.

The Apache will be *coming* into service in Britain shortly. But each costs more than £9 *million, three times* more than for Challenger 2. And they do not provide what the *army* requires: a robust, sustainable presence on the ground.

The tank lives on.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

German Panzer in action during World War Two, and Alistair Horne as a trainee tank man at Pirbright Camp in 1945

● Alistair Horne's latest book, *How Far From Austerlitz: Napoleon 1805-1815*, was published this week by Macmillan, price £18.99.

هكذا من الاصل

Cashmere finally shapes up

Cashmere is hot news this season — soft, luxurious and moulded to the body. But don't be put off by thoughts of bobbling and sagging, says **GRACE BRADBERRY**. Today's designs have a hidden extra

LEFT: Cashmere and Lycra dress, £295, Scotch House (0171-581 2151); tights, £5.99, Jonathan Aston (0116-286 2388); sandals, £44.99, Ravel (0171-631 0224). **RIGHT:** Cashmere and Lycra cardigan, £440; dress, £350; Jaeger (0171-200 4000); tights, £2.25, M&S; shoes, £39.99, Ravel

Women covet cashmere — so much so that men could be forgiven for thinking it was on the forbidden list of the Ten Commandments, after the neighbour's wife, the manservant and the ox.

But while we want to buy it, and while we envy those who dare to do so, many of us are reluctant to take the plunge. Cashmere is something other women have. It is something you receive as a gift, not something you buy on a credit card.

Why do we feel this way? Partly, perhaps, because we have become addicted to the notion of "fashion basics" and "wardrobe essentials" — a way of looking at shopping that may assuage our guilt, but that also limits our horizons.

Gradually, however, we are shifting our position. The words "basic" and "essential" have been replaced by "must have", as in "I just *must* have that Gucci belt/Dolce & Gabbana rose handbag/Joseph jumper". There is no must about it of course: these are objects of desire, not necessity.

But those who make it their business to keep tabs on the spending habits of British women also report a change. We are, apparently, becoming more like continental women, spending larger sums on a single item if it looks like a good investment.

On this score, cashmere's status remains uncertain. We resist buying it not merely out of a spurious puritanism, but also out of a genuine concern that its feathery luxury will not stay the course, bobbling and sagging within months.

At last, cashmere labels have begun to address these concerns. In part, one suspects, they have been goaded into action by Marks & Spencer, whose successful introduction of relatively low-priced cashmere sweaters has given everyone a jolt.

But cashmere has also been undergoing a fashion renaissance. The Home Counties twin-sets are still available, but so are luxury versions of high-fashion knitwear. TSE Cashmere, launched in 1989, led the way. Others have followed.

This season, in particular, knitwear of all kinds is hot fashion news. Dresses, skirts and sweaters are expected to mould to the body — but still to look soft and luxurious. Cashmere is an ideal fibre — but the question of durability remains.

ABOVE: Cashmere tunic, £169, Cashmere by Design (0171-240 3652); devoré scarf, £15, M&S

And so, this winter, several well-known names — including Jaeger, Scotch House and Murray Allan — have added Lycra to their cashmeres for the first time.

"We developed the mix partly to give a more modern look, but also because we wanted the cashmere to be more high-performance," says Jeanette Todd, international design director for Jaeger.

"In many ways, cashmere is already high-performance. And it 're-performs' in the sense that you can clean it and you can shave it to remove the bobbles. But it still has a tendency to go baggy, and that's what we wanted to tackle," she says. "When it comes to skirts, a Lycra-cashmere mix has the added advantage of disguising a slight tummy."

Much the same reasons have led Scotch House to introduce cashmere pieces, with 8 per cent Lycra in the mix. "Form-fitting garments are easier to wear if they have a bit of Lycra," says a spokeswoman. "If you're going to soften a jacket by slipping a cashmere jumper underneath, then it is much more comfortable if it doesn't bag under the arms."

Murray Allan has followed a similar rationale, using Lycra-cashmere mixes for its cable-knits and turtle necks in mulberry and burnt orange.

But whatever the innovations in technology, the age-old rules about choosing good cashmere still apply. First, look for clarity of colour. If there are grey and black hairs in the base of the garment then it will soon deteriorate.

Secondly, be careful when choosing a single-ply yarn. High-quality single-plys are wonderful, but poor quality ones will result in sweaters that are thin and skimpy. Watch out also for anything that appears too loosely knitted — it will soon look cheap.

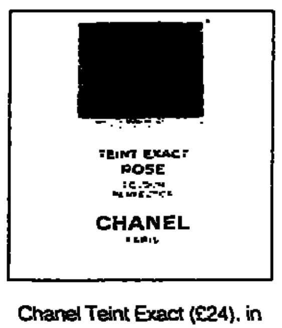
As for the care instructions, these vary from label to label. Marks & Spencer recommends hand-washing rather than using your local dry cleaners. If you do decide to take the plunge and wash the garment yourself, then remember that the important part is the drying: you must dry it flat, and you must pay heed to the over-used instruction "reshape while damp".

Bearing all this in mind, you need covet your neighbour's cashmere no longer. Go out there, buy your own — but keep it well away from the tumble dryer.

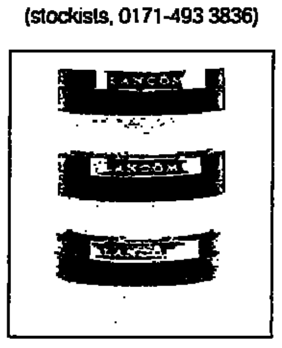
Photographs by **Steve Poole**. Hair and make-up by **Alex Babsky**. Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

ABOVE: Pale grey cashmere cardigan, £99; matching sweater, £80, Marks & Spencer, branches nationwide (information, 0171-935 4422)

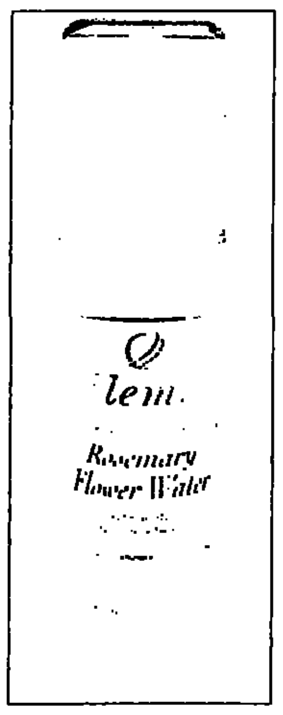
The skin's natural moisture barrier is at its least efficient during the winter, so skincare plans will need revising. **ANNA-MARIE SOLOWIJ** recommends some seasonal beauty boosters



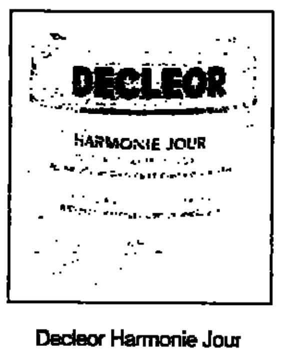
Chanel Teint Exact (£24), in blanc, rose and brun, enhances skin tone (stockists, 0171-493 3836)



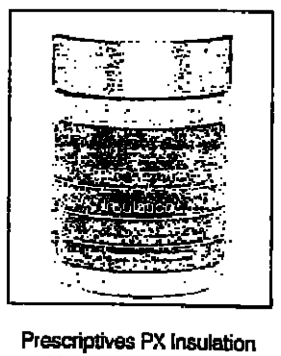
Lancôme Pommette (£15.50) is a cream/powder blusher for dry skins, available nationwide



Elemis Rosemary Flower Water (£6.95) is a gentle skin toner, from Harrods, SW1 (stockists, 0181-954 8033)



Decleor Harmonie Jour (£31.50) is a soothing anti-redness day cream (stockists, 0171-262 0403)



Prescriptives PX Insulation (£34) is an anti-oxidant vitamin moisturiser (stockists, 0171-409 6990).

Contemplation.

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q I have a female holly 'Golden King' and ould like to buy by mail rder two more variegated ollies, another female. and male to pollinate them. ould you recommend suitble silver variegated variets? I do not want 'Silver ueen'. which is yellow dged. — D.N. Robinson, ridlington. Yorks.

A Silver variegated males include 'Elegantisma', 'Silver Milkboy'. erox Argentea' and, if corctly named. the creamy hite 'Silver Queen'. Silver males include 'Handsorth New Silver'. 'Silver entinel' and the weeping rgentea Marginata Penula'. In hollies there is a reat deal of variation in the atterning of the variegation. recommend you look at the ifferent varieties in a public r botanic garden first, bere buying. In the gardenentre trade there are a great any misnamed plants. The uchy of Cornwall does a ood selection by mail order. rom Penlyne Nursery. Cott oad. Lostwithiel, Cornwall L22 0SW. The specialists ighfield Hollies, at Higheld Farm. Hatch Lane. Liss. ants GU33 7NH does not o mail order but sells more an 50 varieties. I would ok in a garden centre and uy something you like the ok of.

Q In autumn, hundreds of sycamore leaves low across my garden. overed in black spots. My oses also suffer from lackspot. Is this the same isease. and should I be learing them up and burning them? — A.G. Williams, armarthen.

A Rose blackspot and tar spot on sycamores are eparate diseases. The former can seriously damage oses by defoliation. but the atter *simply* makes sycamore leaves look disturbingly spotty. Just compost he sycamore leaves as usual.

Q I live in a ten-year-old brick-built London own house. A neighbour's roperty is almost totally overed by a fast-growing Russian vine. which is encroaching onto my property. Although it is attractive. I am concerned that it will damage the brickwork. Can you advise whether it can be left to grow freely or should it be restrained? — R. Morgan, London E14.

A *Fallopia baldschuanica*. the mile-a-minute plant. does not produce aerial roots and will not damage brickwork. However. it will grow under eaves into roof spaces. and behind downpipes and around and around gutters. Then. when snow lands on it, or even if it is very wet and heavy. great strain can be put on the things supporting it.

Russian vine: prolific

It does need restraining. and vigorously. at the end of each season. I would suggest you have a chat about a joint attack on the vine. as it sounds as if it has got the better of your neighbour. Cut it back when it is leafless and dry and the stems can be burnt. Pruning in full leaf seems cruel. but the plant will stand it. In small gardens it is better cut right *down every couple of years.*

Q Last year I bought four apple trees through an offer. but since then I have learnt of the value of dwarfing rootstocks for fruit trees. I would like to train my trees as espaliers 15ft-20ft apart. Can I use my existing trees or should I buy anew — and if so, on which stock? — A. Birch, Birmingham.

A These will be good-sized espaliers, and you should look for the semi-dwarfing rootstock MM.106. *M.9, M.26 and M.27* are more dwarfing than you need, and require a very good soil and no competition from grass to succeed. They are better for cordons, bushes and dwarf pyramids. M.2 and MM.111 will produce large trees, especially on rich soil. If there is no indication what your trees are from the literature, it is probably safe to assume that they are suitable for a small garden. I would have a go at making them work as espaliers.

Q We want to plant a fruiting olive tree in our garden. Any suggestions? — A.J. Bray, Farnborough, Hants.

A In Britain, olives are a conservatory plant. In very mild conditions they will survive outdoors, and there is an old tree in the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. protected by city warmth. which even produces fruit. You could grow an olive in a tub, and bring it under glass for the winter. The little yellow flowers in spring are sweet smelling, and the grey evergreen foliage is always good. Reads of Hales Hall, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6QW sells clones of dessert olives, including 'Pyramidalis'. which is fairly hardy.

If a garden plant it must be, why not try *Phillyrea latifolia*. a dark green, small evergreen tree in the olive family. It has neat, glossy, evergreen foliage and craggy bark in old age. which is nearly as good as an olive.

● Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. *The Times* also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

PHOTOS HORTICULTURAL

A lawn separated by paving will be simpler to maintain because the mower oversails the edge. Strimmers are also a godsend for gardeners

At the cutting edge

There are crafty ways of edging lawns which can mean far less work, says STEPHEN ANDERTON

Sane gardeners hate edging lawns. That's not to say we don't admire a well-cut edge, crisp and straight for all its length. But if it is possible to do without lawn edges, well, who wouldn't? However, there are ways of edging lawns which are far less work.

The most labour-intensive edge is where the turf meets the soil of a border — the traditional 3in drop, edged either with hand shears or an electric edger. If it's not edged every time the lawn is cut, it lets down the Armani sward. Much easier to maintain is a lawn separated from a border by a line of paving. When paving and turf are at the same level, the mower can oversail the edge as it cuts and reduce hand-edging. It suits gardeners who like plants to spill over the edge and break up straight lines. Plants can spill over paving to their hearts' delight without browning the grass or getting in the way of a mower blade.

Thankfully, there are those wonderful nylon-cord strimmers that can be used to chop off those stalks which venture sideways over the paving. Previously, the only option was to try to get the lower blade of the edging *shears underneath the stalks* — a frustrating and tricky business — or to cut back the edge periodically with a half-moon edging iron.

The width of paving varies according to whether plants are to spill towards or inundate the lawn, and the scale and length of the border. Large *borders might* require a couple of feet of paving (almost a path), smaller ones a foot, and the smallest 9in. In this case, bricks laid, together like dominoes, can be used, set on a bed of concrete. Long paving slabs can be set just on a bed of sand, and there are fewer joints for creeping grasses to penetrate.

Many times out of ten the most efficient way of arranging the transition from turf to border is through a path or hard landscaping. If the logic of your design can be made to require this transition, maintenance will be easier.

Remember that grass is just as likely to intermingle with a composite medium, such as gravel, as it is with turf and border soil, so composite paths are better with brick or concrete kerbs. The easiest to maintain will be a flat edging which the mower can oversail.

Vertical edgings, although more work, have their virtues. They stand out more, naturally, and can be as ornamental as you choose. There are the ceramic "rope" tiles of Victorian times, now in production again. There is the method of setting bricks on end but sloping to give a stepped top; very fancy but most effective. There are smooth concrete kerbs, perhaps 2ft long and 9in deep, which, like bricks, need to be set in concrete. If firmly fixed you can run a light, rubber-wheeled mower against them in order to get close. A strimmer will then cut off the whiskers.

With vertical edgings or turf growing right up to walls, strimmers are extremely useful. The last little strip left by the mower can be strimmed off with ease. Better still, do it first so that the mower then picks up the strimmings as it passes.

For best results, vertical edgings are set on a bed of concrete to keep them in place horizontally, with concrete banked up under the soil on either side to keep them vertical. These areas of side concrete are called haunchings. If you are having a path constructed this way, make sure you agree with the builder the width of *the haunchings. Too narrow* a haunching will not support the edgings. But usually the greater problem is haunchings which are too wide, giving you 9in of dry, useless border with concrete underneath. About 4-5in will be sufficient. Where turf meets gravel, other options must be considered. A wooden edging can be used, made of heavy-duty pressure-treated fencing rails nailed to vertical pegs. The wood is set into the ground just deep enough to hold back the gravel and give an inch or two of vertical, and low enough for the turf to grow over the top edge of the wood and hide it. This is important, because the wood is pretty ugly until it disappears. Timber normally comes in 12ft lengths, and it is possible to get some modest curve on to a path edge by bending it. Tighter curves have to be made by cutting in shorter pieces of wood set around the angle of the curve. It never looks entirely happy, and relies on the turf lapping over the wood and being cut to a smoother curve. Properly treated timber should last ten years.

For a longer-lasting job, and a more discreet if expensive one, metal strip edgings may be used in a similar way, bolted to vertical posts of angle iron. But such cruel precision can look out of place in a garden. It suits roads and drives better than *garden paths.*

If you are stuck with lawns giving straight on to borders (and it looks delightful after all) edging is made easier by ensuring the soil level is lower than the turf, with a clean drop. Then you can get the blade of the shears under the grass easily.

Finally, even if you are happy to leave lawn weeds in the turf, it's worth controlling creeping weeds such as clover and yarrow at the edges, as these evade the edging shears and slither into the border.

WEEKEND TIPS

- **Plant or move roses. Those arriving by mail may have dry roots and should be soaked in water for an hour before planting. The same applies to bare-rooted trees and shrubs.**
- **Using straw or bracken, protect celeriac and other root crops left in the ground from frost.**
- **The hardiest 'Aquadulce' broad beans and sugar peas may be sown now in mild spells for an early crop next year.**
- **Move hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries taken last autumn into their final positions, after thorough soil enrichment (see opposite page).**
- **Plant cloves of garlic outdoors on light, well-drained soil. Use only plump, firm bulblets and set 7in apart.**

Chancellor who planted ideas

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ Studley Royal, Near Ripon, North Yorkshire (01765 608888)

Signs to Fountains Abbey off B6265 between Ripon (2m) and Pateley Bridge. Daily all year except Dec 24 and 25, Fri from Nov to Jan; 10am-5pm, or dusk if earlier, Jan to March and Oct to Dec; 10am-7pm April to Sept. Entrance: £4, children £2.

Anyone who wants to understand the English landscape garden should head for Yorkshire and Studley Royal. Here is the garden created by John Aislabie, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who fell from grace at the time of the South Sea Bubble in 1720. Beyond *the park that surrounded Aislabie's* home lay the wooded valley of the River Skell; this was the site of his garden. He dammed the stream to make a lake and moved an impressive amount of earth to make a flat, grassy expanse where he laid out a canal and formal pools.

Classical-style buildings — the Temple of Piety peeps out from the trees — and lead statues were positioned as *eye-catchers and focal-points.* But Aislabie never achieved his final ambition for the garden, the purchase of the neighbouring Fountains Abbey estate that would have given him the majestic ruins of the Cistercian abbey as the landscape's climax at the end of the Skell valley. His son achieved this during the 1740s. I can think of few more impressive and rewarding places to walk on an autumn or winter's day — when you might easily have the place to yourself, — and the first glimpse of the Temple of Piety across the moon ponds is an experience few visitors forget.

■ Dartington Hall, nr Totnes, Devon (01803 862367)

Off A384, 2m north-west of Totnes. Open: daily, dawn to dusk. Entrance: £2 donation.

When Dartington Hall was bought by Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst, of America, in 1925 it was derelict and they embarked on years of restoration. *In the garden* they turned to the American designer Beatrix Farrand. Dartington was Farrand's only work in England. She introduced a strong design and interesting planting features into the existing garden and linked it to the woodland beyond without disrupting the landscape. From the house, the ground slopes in a series of terraces — along one of which stand sentinel yews called Apostles — down to an expanse of lawn known as the tilt-yard because Plantagenet knights jousted here. On the far side of the garden, a series of broad grass terraces rises up to a Henry Moore sculpture and woodland garden.

Farrand created a network of three paths to wind on different levels among the huge oaks, sweet chestnuts and other mature trees in the woodland garden which runs behind the tilt-yard lawn and along a bank to where it merges with the fields of a long combe.

After the war, Farrand's work was followed up by Percy Cane, who introduced ornamental colour to the woodland and features that Farrand would have felt to be too grandiose — such as the flight of steps.

■ Oxford Botanic Garden, In Oxford, by Magdalen Bridge (0198265 276920)

Open: daily expect Dec 25, 9am-5pm (4.30pm in winter). Entrance free, except in midsummer.

Pass through the memorable pedimented stone gateway made by Nicholas Stone, master-mason to the great Inigo Jones, and you are in one of England's most distinguished repositories of horticultural history. Founded in 1621 by the Earl of Danby, on five acres leased from Magdalen College that had previously been a burial ground for Jews, Oxford's is the oldest botanical garden in Britain. By the end of the 17th century it was the first garden in Europe to be distributing a seed list; Sir Joseph Banks trained here in the 18th century and similarly distinguished gardening names, such as Hooker, played a part in the 19th. In autumn and winter the garden's structured orderliness is particularly evident: shrubs grouped by family and geometrically arranged "order beds" for herbaceous plants. The garden is wonderfully informative; with immaculate labelling, descriptions of plants and their origins and uses.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

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مصغرا من الاصل

With blackcurrants and some soft fruits difficult to find in the supermarkets, **BARBARA ABBS** advises on how to cultivate them yourself

Grow your own summer pudding

This has been a very good year for soft fruit, yet in my local supermarket and greengrocers there were no blackcurrants — fresh, frozen or tinned.

I wanted to make a summer pudding, but this is not complete without a quantity of blackcurrants adding their dark purple richness to the mixture of cherries, strawberries, raspberries and redcurrants. I had replaced my bushes with old roses a few years ago, not realising how scarce blackcurrants were commercially — much UK production goes to juice manufacturers.

Blackcurrants, red and white currants and gooseberries are of the same genus and can enhance savoury dishes, as well as being the basis of many traditional puddings and preserves.

Soft fruit grows well in our temperate climate, not even needing full sun, so if supermarkets are going to reject it in favour of starfruit and pawpaws, we will have to grow our own. Luckily this is not difficult.

October and November are among the best times for planting soft fruit, and you can plant as late as December if the weather remains mild. However, they will not fruit next year, because newly planted bushes must be hard-pruned to encourage root growth during the first year.

Blackcurrants (*Ribes nigrum*) need the most attention and space. With correct pruning you can create slim gooseberry or redcurrant cordons to fit neatly against a wall or on a standard, perfect for the middle of a herb bed. However, blackcurrants are heavy feeders, preferring manure to garden compost. They must have a space of about 5ft by 5ft for each bush.

Unfortunately, blackcurrants frequently get "big bud" (gall mite). The mites carry a virus that causes the leaves to become distorted and drop off.

Redcurrants (*R. sativum*) seem to produce fruits year after year without fuss. Gooseberries (*R. uva-crispa*) are equable, too, but less a pleasure to harvest.

Soil preparation for redcurrants is the same as for blackcurrants (see box, right). A new bush will have two or three shoots and these should be pruned to half their length in February. Remove any shoots that are less than 4in from the ground. The following winter, prune all shoots to about half the new growth, cutting above an outward-facing bud. Aim to produce a goblet shape with a short leg and about eight permanent branches round an open centre. In the following years, side shoots should be cut back to one bud and the main branches tipped.

Cordons and double cordons of gooseberries and redcurrants can be formed from rooted cuttings. Prunings 12in long of well-ripened young shoots usually root without trouble. Make a slanting cut above a bud at the top and a horizontal cut at the other end. Then insert in soil which does not dry out, to a depth of half their length. Remove any buds or shoots from the bottom half of the cuttings. In autumn, plant the rooted cuttings 12in apart and cut them back by half. A new strong shoot will grow; pinch back any other shoots and support the main stem with a cane as it grows. For a double cordon, allow two shoots to develop, one each side. Next year, reduce any side shoots to one or two buds but allow the main stem to grow to the desired height.

When the cordon has reached about 4ft high, you can then consider forming a standard. Prune the leader in winter to a bud at a height of about 3½ ft. The following spring, allow five lateral shoots at the top to develop into the head. Ensure that the stem is firmly staked. Next winter, remove all buds and shoots on the stem.

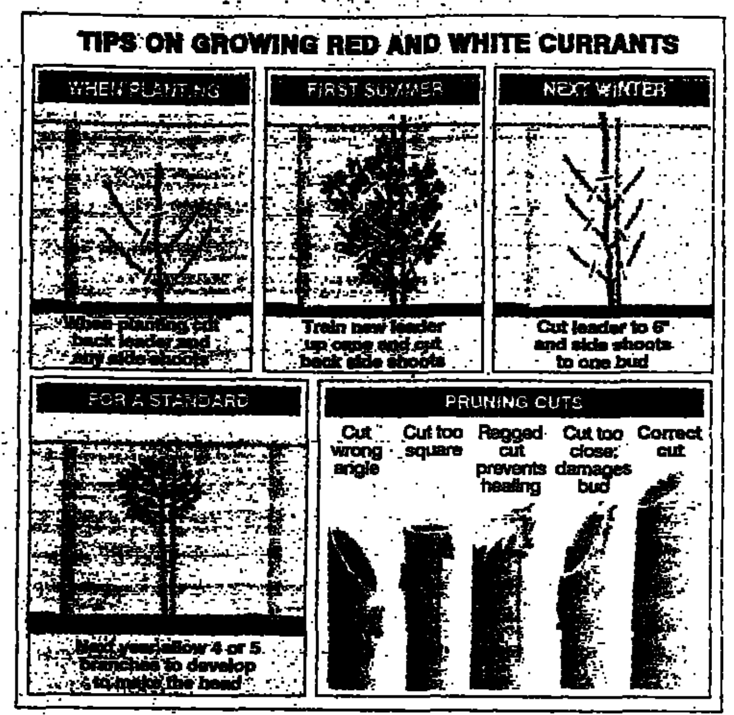
The stems of gooseberries are not as sturdy as those of redcurrants, but it is just as easy to form cordons. However, standard gooseberries should be bought ready-trained, grafted on to a stock of *Ribes odoratum*.

Taking cuttings and initial pruning is the same as for redcurrants, but established gooseberry cordons and standards need additional summer pruning. Each new side shoot should be reduced to five leaves. In winter, shorten the new shoots to about 3in and prune the tips of the main branches.

After the dry springs and summers we have been experiencing, mulch the bushes in the winter with well-rotted manure and in summer with lawn mowings — essential with blackcurrants. Nourishing applications of woodash or potassium sulphate are also beneficial.

- ● Suppliers: J. Tweedie Fruit Trees, Maryfield Road Nursery, Maryfield, Dumfries DG2 9TH (01387 720880). Ken Muir, Honeypot Farm, Rectory Road, Weeley Heath, Essex CO16 9BJ (01255 830181). R.V. Roger, The Nurseries, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7HG (01751 47226).
- ● Books: *Pruning and Training* by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce (Dorling Kindersley, £19.99). *The Fruit Garden Displayed* by Harry Baker (RHS, £12.99).

TIPS ON GROWING RED AND WHITE CURRANTS


WHEN PLANTING
When planting cut back leader and any side shoots
FIRST SUMMER
Train new leader up cane and cut back side shoots
NEXT WINTER
Cut leader to 6" and side shoots to one bud
FOR A STANDARD
Next year allow 4 or 5 branches to develop to make the head
PRUNING CUTS
Cut wrong angle
Cut too square
Ragged cut prevents healing
Cut too close; damages bud
Correct cut

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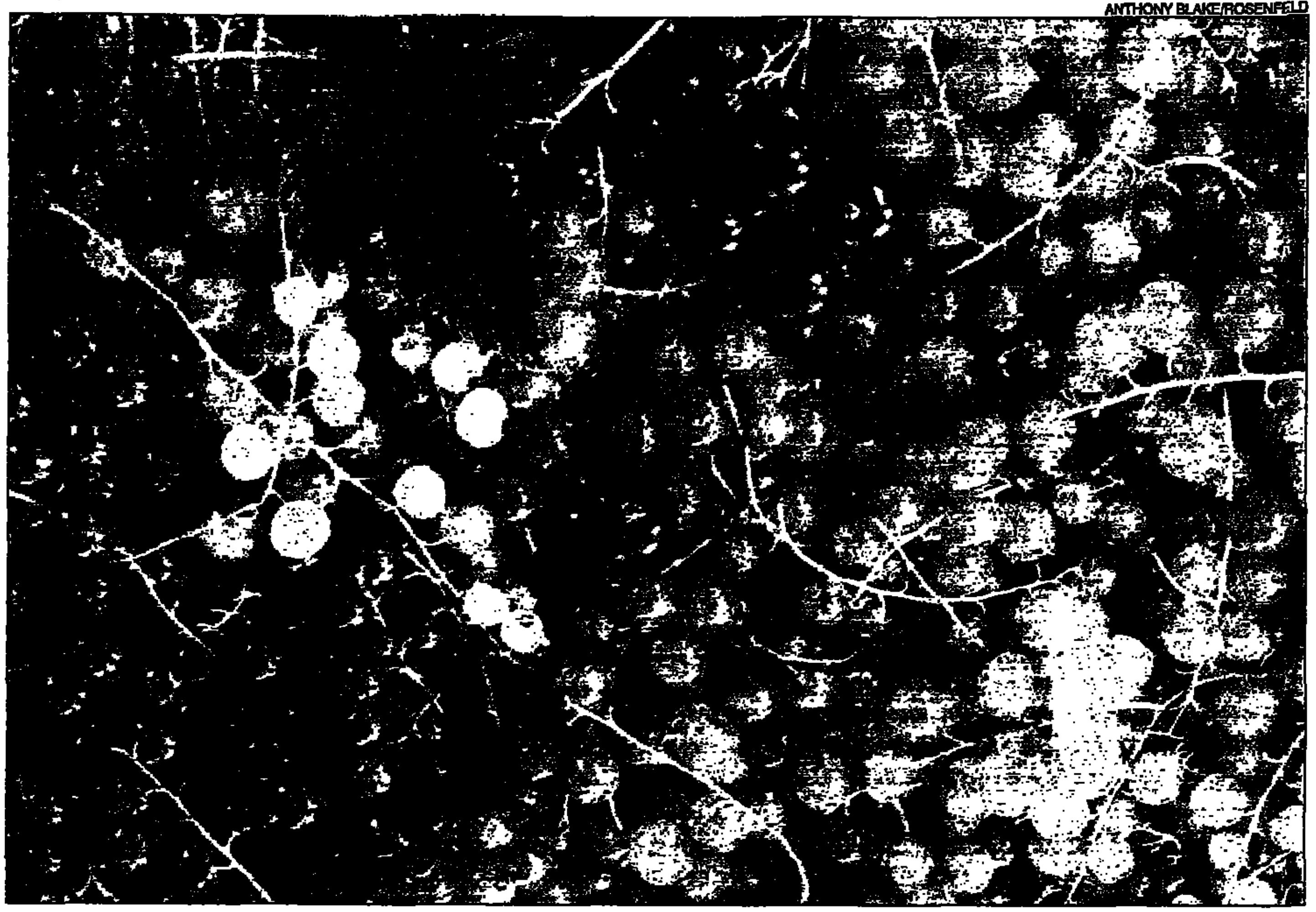

Soft fruit grow well in temperate climates, not even needing full sun. October and November are among the best times for planting

SELECTED VARIETIES

- ■ BLACKCURRANTS: where late frosts are rare and space is plentiful, older cultivars such as 'Boskoop Giant' and 'Baldwin' are recommended for flavour. Newer cultivars, such as 'Ben Sarek' and, newest of all, 'Ben Connan', are hardier and more compact. The latter has heavy crops of large fruits and is resistant to powdery mildew and leaf-curling midge.
- ■ REDCURRANTS: 'Jonkheer van Tets' is a large-fruiting, early variety. 'Red Lake' crops in mid-season.
- ■ WHITE CURRANTS: 'White Grape' and 'White Versailles'.
- ■ GOOSEBERRIES: 'Careless' is a widely available cooking fruit. For puddings, the red-fruited 'Whinham's Industry', 'Langley Gage' and 'Golden Drop' are recommended.

HOW TO GROW BLACKCURRANTS

- ■ There is a certification scheme for blackcurrants. Choose a good variety from healthy stock.
- ■ Prepare the ground well, digging in plenty of well-rotted manure. Pig manure is recommended but deep-litter poultry compost (6X or pelleted chicken manure) is more pleasant to handle. Hoof and horn dug in at a rate of about 2lb to a square yard will provide a slow-release organic fertiliser.
- ■ Plant the bushes a good 2in deeper than the original soil-depth mark, because the plants are shallow rooting.
- ■ Prune shoots back to one outward-facing bud above soil level.
- ■ Mulch well in spring.
- ■ The bush should produce about six or seven shoots, which will fruit the following year.
- ■ At pruning time — next September and October — prune out weak or low-growing shoots.
- ■ Keep the bush well watered. Blackcurrants are shallow rooting. A bucketful now and then that soaks through the mulch into the soil is better than a fine spray that dampens only the surface.
- ■ In subsequent years, apply a balanced fertiliser, preferably one containing trace elements, at a rate of about 105-140g (3½-5oz) per square metre in early spring before mulching. Organic gardeners can rely on a regular autumn mulch of well-rotted manure.
- ■ Blackcurrants fruit best on wood produced the previous year. Annual pruning consists of removing old wood, where the bark is dark brown or black, encouraging the bush to produce more new shoots from the base each year.

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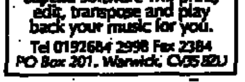

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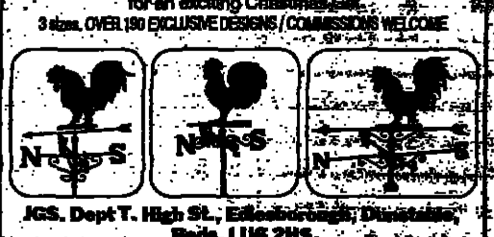

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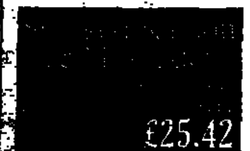

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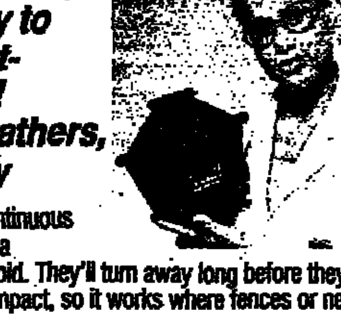

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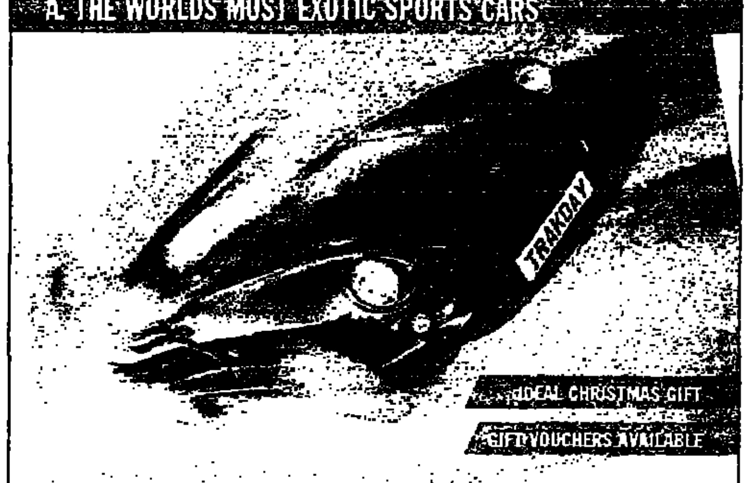

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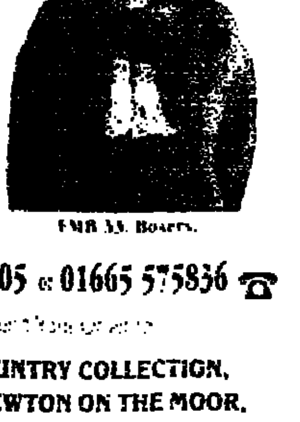

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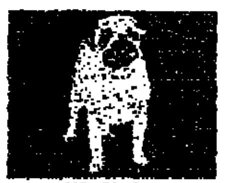

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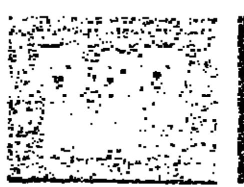

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LANDMARK TRUST

Sackville House, a timber-framed holiday home at East Grinstead, West Sussex

Break from the norm

THE Landmark Trust, a charity that restores unusual and historic buildings and lets them for self-catering holidays, has some new houses on its books for 1997, including Sackville House, a Tudor-cum-Elizabethan timber-framed house in the High Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex, and Goddards, a Lutyens house at Abinger Common, Surrey.

The charity is becoming more flexible about its off-season breaks. Starting this month, customers can book a weekend break (Friday to Monday), a midweek stay (Monday to Friday), or a whole week, which can start on a Friday or Monday.

The average price for a weekend break for four to six people is just under £300 (inclusive). Prices vary according to the region in which the property is based. For example, ten people can have a winter weekend break at Meikle Ascog, a 19th-century house on the Isle of Bute, in the Firth of Clyde, Scotland, at less than £40 a head, £357 in total. But in midweek it could be as little as £25 per person (£250). Alternatively, a week spent at this elegant home costs £482.

The trust's handbook (£8.50, refundable on booking), gives full details, including histories, of its range of properties.

The trust is virtually fully-booked for Christmas and New Year and is taking bookings for Easter 1997. (Landmark Trust, bookings 01628 825925.)

Just right for the caveman

AN ANCIENT cave which helped rewrite the history books is for sale. It lies beneath a Victorian terraced house in Brixham, south Devon.

The cave was discovered in 1858 when a local entrepreneur, Mr Philp, bought a large tract of land on Windmill Hill in Brixham with a view to building houses. The cave proved that pre-historic man lived alongside pre-historic animals.

Contemporary records describe the cave as being about 135ft by 100ft, "containing some large galleries and smaller chambers", although it is actually larger. The cave has five entrances, and the galleries measure about 6ft wide by 10ft high.

Excerpts from the Geological Society's pamphlet tell how bones belonging to cave bears, red deer, a wolf, a hyena, a fox, rabbits, a woolly rhinoceros and a mammoth were found, side by side with man made flints ... "and the skeleton of a mature animal of gigantic size".

Mr Philp built a house above the cave, which remained a great attraction long after most of its exhibits were taken to the Natural History Museum in London.

Now a scheduled Ancient Monument, it is one of the most important caves in the country and is being sold with the house for £50,000.

"The the cave runs into the hillside behind the house, the agent, says. "It has a long, windy tunnel with outcrops of stalactites and stalagmites. On one of the stalagmites you can see a piece of reindeer antler stuck to the rock. Archaeologically, the whole cave is both interesting and important." (Details from Jim Churchill, estate agent, Brixham, Devon, 01803 882671.)

PROPERTY NEWS

■ A TRADITIONAL English country home is to be built in Japan after a Japanese couple, who had visited England on holiday, commissioned an architect to construct a replica of a Cotswold manor house.

The house, which will need 160 tonnes of stone costing about £100,000, will be constructed with authentic features such as flagstone floors, mullioned windows and oak-panelled walls. The architect has borrowed from the styles of famous country homes in Gloucestershire, homes such as Sherbourne House, near Northleach.

David Goodbody, of Cotswold Hill Stone at Ford, near Stow-on-the-Wold, says: "We supplied stone for two smaller houses for the same architect last year."

History to let

THE National Trust is letting Lower House, in Kelmscott, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, and the birthplace of William Morris. It is asking £1,500 a week for a five-year let, through Cluttons' Oxford office.

The house is built of local limestone, has stone slate roofs, and incorporates many of the original 17th-century features, such as mullioned windows, a scrolled wooden door canopy, fireplaces and wood panelling.

There are two main reception rooms, a large kitchen, two bathrooms, five bedrooms, a large garden and an adjoining stone barn.

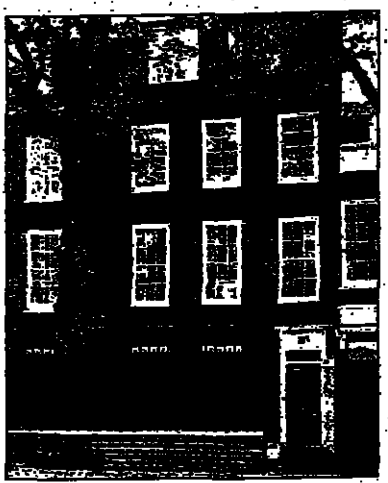
Jonathan Scott-Smith, of Cluttons, says: "Lower House has immense character and it would not take much to make it into a really beautiful family home." (Cluttons, Oxford, 01865 246611).

Million dollar act

THE estate agent John D. Wood is asking £1 million for 215 Kings Road, Chelsea, southwest London, the former home of Dame Ellen Terry, the actress, who lived there from 1904 until 1920, and is commemorated by a brown plaque on the front of building.

Other famous occupants of the four-bedroomed Georgian house include Dr Thomas Arne, the composer of *Rule Britannia*, Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia and Peter Ustinov.

The house, which has an attractive south-facing rear garden, also boasts a large adjoining studio. (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484.)



Ellen Terry's £1 million house

■ THE 1957 Downstream building, part of the Shell Centre on the South Bank of the Thames, is to be turned into flats by Fairview New Homes and Galliard Homes.

The ten-storey block will have a mix of one, two and three-bedroomed flats, some with magnificent panoramic views across the Thames to the Houses of Parliament and St Paul's Cathedral.

The first flats are expected to be ready for sale by next September. (Details from Fairview New Homes, 0181-366 1271.)

Pay later

FOXTONS, the London estate agent, says that encouraging buyers and sellers to consider the option of delayed completion of house sales could alleviate the present market uncertainties.

In Putney, southwest London, Foxtons is receiving an enthusiastic response to this notion, even though the area is traditionally dominated by a transient population. In just one week, Foxtons has finalised the sales of two properties with delayed completion times of nine and six months respectively — and both have been sold at figures exceeding the original asking price.

Geoffrey Edmead, of Foxtons, says: "We acknowledge that there is risk in delayed completions — prices could go up or down in the interim — but sellers can also appreciate the benefits it brings in terms of greater flexibilty and security."

The dearth of good quality London property means that vendors are selling their homes within days, but the delayed completion allows them plenty of time to find a new property. (Foxtons, 0171-221 3534.)

● Contributors: Rachel Kelly, Tom Wells and Cheryl Taylor.

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Lists. 7 days 10am-10pm 0171 833 1104.

HAMMERSMITH Larymer Crt W6. High standard 3 bed apt, dble recep. £138K. 0181 563 0606 T

HOLLAND PARK New built house 3 bed, 2 bath, lounge, garage, F/H. £295,000. 0171 724 9919

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W2 Stylish & spac 2nd flr 2 bed flat in period bldng £249,950 Westways 0171 792 2167

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1st flr flat in fine period house. Lg recep & lg dble bed both with 14ft ceilings, opening on to lg balcony overlooking gdns. Ftd kitchen, broad bathroom & extensive storage space. Excellent cond, share of F/H. Avail for quick sale £147,000

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Superb 1 bed, pied a terre with spectacular river views, south west facing, off street parking, open plan reception, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, wonderful sun sets £92,000.

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ST. JOHN'S WOOD/ MAIDA VALE

Centrally lctd 3 bd 3rd flr flat with lift in portered blk. New bthrm, new fully fit ktc. 27' dbl rec, all recently redec., entry phone, 1 off st. pkg space. £179,500.

0171 794 3696

No agents

W6
CARDROSS ST.

F/hld cottage in sought after location. 2 dbl beds, recep, cloakroom, kit/din/conservatory, bathroom, 26' gdn. £210,000.

0181 746 0762

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

THE TONSLEYS SW18

Superb three bedroom house in excellent decorative order. Double reception, seperate dining room, designer kitchen, new bathroom. Well established, secluded patio garden, useful loft space. Easy commute (5 mins walk to BR). Offers IRO £212,000 MUST BE SEEN.

Tel: 0171 382 6717(D) or 0181 870 5078(E)

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

LIBERTY MEWS Malwood Road, SW12. Attractive 2nd (top) fl flat nr. Clapham South tube. L shaped rec; 2 beds; bath; kit roof terr; off st parking. Leasehold £109,500 s.t.c. Aldine Honey & Co 0171 834 4901

PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE

1st floor balcony flat overlooking Battersea Pk. 3 beds, 2 baths, din rm, rec rm, lge kit with S. facing windows. Fire plcs., wooden flrs, dbl glazing, fully refurb with Scand. touch. Caretaker, long lse, share of f/hld. £335,000. Call owner on:

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BARBICAN One bed 4th flr flat facing west. 23ft reception. £109,500. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

BARBICAN/City November lists of flats from £65,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

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Offers in the region of £200,000

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WAPPING 3 bed maisonette, own entrance, parking, 20' living rm. £130,000. 0171 480 6815 t

WAPPING 2 bed, 2 bath with private garden. Parking. £146,000. 0171-480 6815 T.

FULHAM

REFURBISHED 2 bed 1st floor flat in period house £107,500 Wellingtons 0171 731 4448

BUILDING LAND Consent for restaurant with flat on top. Offers considered subject to planning for change to resid. £160,000 negotiable 0171 381 8272

BISHOPS PARK

SW6. Immaculate 5/6 bed family house, with new "Shaker Style" kitchen/ breakfast room. 2/3 receptions, 3 bathrooms, large south facing garden and roof terrace. Original features. £315,000.

Tel: 0171 3816069.

LONDON PROPERTY

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL

LITTLE VENICE, W9

Last remaining mews houses for sale in exclusive backwater of Little Venice. Bright well planned accommodation with integral garage, carpets and luxury kitchen. Entrance hall, guest WC, living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms/shower room, garage. NHBC guarantee. Guide £285,000(one only) - £320,000

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VALE OF HEALTH NW3 superb 4/5 bed family hse £650,000Fh 0171 433 3310 Amberden Est

NW5
(Very nr Belsize Park, Hampstead Heath)

Unique open-plan house in quiet, sought-after street, architect-designed interiors. Perfect as studio for artists, designers, writers. Living-working spaces plus kitchen, bathroom, conservatory. Fairy-tale garden with fishpond. Substantial storage space. £215,000 o.n.o. Ring 0171 485 9960 Or 0171 261 0484.

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CHELSEA 2 tired flats with potential, 46 & 19 years repectively. 0171 823 6923

CHELSEA SW10 Elegant 2 rm apartment New Lse £87,000 quick sale. 0171 352 6649

HOLLAND PARK New built house 3 bed, 2 bath, lounge, garage, F/H. £296,000. 0171 724 9919

KEN HIGH St Lge ex artists studio cott + potential. £375,000 Westways 0171 792 2167

REDCLIFFE GDNS 1 bed grnd flr gdn flat £140,000 Tel. Adam 0171 229 0824 (No Agts)

ST QUINTIN AVE W10 Charming 2nd floor flat in conversion. 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, long lse £125,000 0171 221 5800

SW7 2 bed flat in pbb lift & porter 1.5 baths bright dble aspect recep with gdn views. £229,000 L/h Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911 t 0171 244 9838 f.

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL

CHELSEA - SW3

Newly refurbished house in prime location close to the river. Double reception room, dining/family room, kitchen, utility room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 shower rooms. Small patio. £815,000 FREEHOLD

Chelsea office Tel 0171- 835 1444

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Immaculate 5 bedroom house. River views, garage, 2 parking spaces, garden, 3 bathrooms, curtains & carpets. £950,000.

0171 351 1127

(Mon-Fri)

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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overlooking immaculate newly rebuilt architect designed house. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 receptions. Beautiful West facing garden. Free hold. £1 095 Million.

Ring owner 0171 9356946 home or 0171 6295454 office.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Nr KIMBOLTON

Spacious and unusual single storey house on the edge of a hamlet. 3 large receptions + study, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (3 ensuite). Double garage & barn. 1.5 acre garden. £335,000.

Tel 01604 32991.

BERKSHIRE

VERY ATTRACTIVE

Period house in quiet country lane 4 miles from Marlow. Large kitchen and breakfast room, utility room, dining room, sitting room, study, cloakroom. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, attractive established garden. Separate garage and small barn. £370,000.

Tel: 01491 572127

WRAYSBURY

Attractive 6 bedroom house in semi-rural setting, nr to airport, 35 mins to waterloo. Open plan living area, superior bathroom and ensuite shower room. Double garage. £259,000.

Tel : 01753 648117.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

WAVENDON

Quiet getaway luxury apartment with garage, set in Grade II listed building by side of lake, in 10 acre communal maintained grounds. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep and study area. Next to a Golf Course and the M1. Quick Sale. £74,995.

Tel: 01908 661661 or 0118 9629864

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ELY, Cambridgeshire, period house requiring total refurbishment, in superb riverside location, for sale by public auction at The Maltings, Ely. Wednesday November 27th at 7.00pm. Contact: Cheffins, 25 Market Place, Ely. 01353 662266

CHESHIRE

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detached thatched property set in 1 acre. Immaculate. 3 recepts, F/F kitchen + utility, 5 bedrooms, F/F master bedroom with en suite, F/F guest room with en suite marble bathroom. 3 further bedrooms with family bathroom. Indoor swimming pool with Jacuzzi/ sauna/ shower room + 31' games room above. 2 double garages. £499,000. offers.

Tel: 01606 883291

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with detailed planning permission (no agricultural tie) with 25 acres in pretty Hamlet 2 miles from Truro. Opposite golf course and near sailing water. Out buildings totaling 4,000 square feet (flower farm for 50 years).

£150,000.

Tel. 01872 73832.

COTSWOLDS

WILTS/GLOS BORDERS Grade II Cotswold Farmhouse. 3 recep, kitchen/bkfast rm. 6 beds, 3 bath, 31' studio. 17½ acres, stables, outbuildings, garden & tennis court. £430,000 Butler Sherborn (01285) 861583

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A Unique limited development of lux houses & character cottages, all set within 23 acres of beautifully restored private & secure gdns & grnds, golf crse ¼ mls, coast 3 mls, estuary sailing 2 mls, Exeter/M5 10 mls, just 2 remaining 4 bed Stable Cottages @ £177,500 each

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Chelmsford
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OXFORDSHIRE

NORTH OXFORD choice of two stunning converted apartments in an imposing detached Victorian property, beautifully appointed with hall, cloakroom, 1/2 reception rooms, fully equipped kitchen, two bedrooms, luxury bath/shower room (one with en-suite). Must be viewed. £195,000/220,000. Paul Murray 01865 511333

OXFORDSHIRE

BAMPTON Oxford 18 miles. Detached period stone village house converted from former Coach House. Dining hall, drwg rm, kit, conserv, laundry rm, cloakrm, 4 beds, attic/bed 5, Bath, Gdn, Gge £235,000 Butler Sherborn (01993) 822325

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W SURREY
NR GODALMING

New 2 bed luxury cottage in parkland setting. Facilities include floodlit tennis courts, indoor pool, 50 acre grounds, security gates, garage, fitted kitchen.

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Tel: 01428 661 363 (T)

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Large ground floor appartment in Palladian listed Mansion, master bedroom suite with dressing room and marble bathroom, 2 further beds, family marble bath, study/bedroom 4, cloakroom with shower, large family kitchen, dining room, double reception room opening into private patio and formal Italian gardens. Swimming pool, tennis courts, 13 acres of parkland, 2 miles M25 (J11) 10 miles Heathrow, 25 miles Harrods.

For Sale: £365,000
Or Rent £3000 p.c.m.
Tel:01932 874488.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NORTHAMPTON

BR station 1 mile / M1 3 miles. Individual contemporary detached house - 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, in small quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious rooms, mature garden, double garage. Immaculate condition. OIRO £185,000.

Tel 01604 32991

SUSSEX

CHICHESTER 5 mls sth det chalet hse with income potntl & annexe Hall, sit rm, kit/din conserv, util, clks, 3 bds, bd 4/ din rm, 2 bths (1e/s), annexe + sit rm, kit/bkrm, bed & bth, gdns, ample pking £185,950 Stride & Son 01243 782626

WALES

BETWEEN Swansea and Carmarthen, 3 miles from Cross Hands/ M4. A detached bungalow with forecourt and large garden, 2 bed, 2 reception. Central heating. Renovation needed internally. £29,000. Mr James 0171 403 4768 (H) 0171 831 6908 (WK).

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Really avail. 4 bed det cot. gd sized accommod, dble gge, open views.

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Holiday home, floor area 40sq metres, seperate building for further accomodation (15sq metres), ½ acre garden, 40 metres river front, rural location, good local facilities. £27,000.

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ALGARVE Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago & surroundings, luxury villas & apartments, resale & built to your requirements. For personal service Prime Property Int 01628 778841.

PADERNE Algarve. Luxury villa with fantastic views over Albufeira. 4 double bedrooms in main house all ensuite. Large dining room, sitting room with marble fireplace, kitchen & utility. Marble floors & stairs throughout. Pool room suite of bed/sitting room, bathroom etc. Swimming pool, jacuzzi & large patio. Mature gardens. Tennis court. Many extra features. £395,000.

Tel: 01481 721316 (business hours).

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LONDON RENTALS

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ASCOT - a large 4/5 bedroomed detached house to let with swimming pool, sauna and maintained landscaped gardens. For further details please contact tel: 01892 528888 or Fax: 01892 538888

BAYSWATER Unfurn 2 bed 2 bth p/b flat, new carpet & decor, dble glaze spac recep, porter. £290 pw. 0181 963 8911 t

BELGRAVIA SW1 Lux accom 2 dbl/bed, f/f, avail now. N/s. £350 pw. Ring 01428 683222

CHALK FARM Newly dec. 2 bed 2 bath, f/f, raised ground flat, nr tube. £250 pw. 0585 767880

CHELSEA, 1 bed furn flats nr Sloane Sq. Avail now. From £250pw. 0171 351 4717.

SW3
KNIGHTSBRIDGE/ CHELSEA

Opposite Harrods.

2 bd, 2 bth (1 e/s) apt in p/b prstd blk, lft. Exc cond. All amenit. Furn/unfurn. £500pw neg.

0171 232 1748 (h)
0171 277 5649 (o & wknds)

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Pretty and Elegant 1 double bedroom patio flat, high ceilings, fully fitted kitchen, Gas Central Heating. 5 minutes Putney BR Tube, near the River. £230pw.

Tel: 0171 381 4165

LITTLE VENICE W9

Recently constructed mews house: 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms (2e/s) F/F luxury kitchen. Living room. Dining/ family room leading onto large walled patio garden. Cls. Warwick Ave U/ground. £575 p.w. Furnished.

Tel: 0171 354 0834

KENSINGTON SW5

Superb interior designed maisonette within this highly refurbished period property. 3 lge dbl bedrooms, master with 4 poster bed, (en suite) bathroom, 2 further bathrooms, one (en suite) sep. cloakroom. F/F kitchen. Lg reception room, gallery dining room, parking, entry phone. Must Be Seen. £1,500 p.w.

Ref MR 0171 266 2727 or 0976-413884.

LONDON RENTALS

CHELSEA, Sloane Ave, f/f flat in portered bldg, recept, bed, bath, kit, balcony w/views to Hyde pk. Ideal one person. £265 per wk. After Nov 12, call 0171 589 8249 to view.

CHELSEA stunning large newly refurbished 3 bed 2 recep, unfurn flat, Porter. Comm gdns £725pw 0171 5819449.

CHELSEA, 2 bed furn flats nr Sloane Sq. Avail now. From £300pw. 0171 351 4717.

CHELSEA, Penthse flt 2 bd 2 bth w/ terr furn nr Sloane Sq. Avail now £495pw 0171 351 4717

CLEVELAND SQ, W2. Ent. des. penthouse flat, 3 beds, 2 baths, wood flrs, own lift, 2 terraces. £695 pw. 0385 767880.

CHELSEA 1 bd flat, an absolute steal at £215 pw. Mickleigh Estates 0171 7306003.

[illegible] bed mais with terr. £325 pw. 1 yr+ Geo Joslin 0171 352 3746

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FULHAM SW6 [illegible] 4 bed hse + garden, conservatory, utility & roof terrace, [illegible] family or sharers £450pw [illegible] & co. 0171 720 0661

FULHAM SW6, Spacious well presented furn 3 bed house with delightful gdn avail for 1 year + £375 pw [illegible] 0171 373 0033

HAMPSTEAD 2 x 4 bed family houses, [illegible], 1 furn, 1 unfurn. [illegible] £700 pw. 0171 433 3310 Amberden Estates

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HOLLAND PARK Luxury 1 double bedroom flat. £1,000pcm. [illegible]

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KENSINGTON [illegible] SW7 Close to South Ken tube 2 dble bed [illegible] 2 marble bathrms [illegible] £345 pw. 0385 767880.

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OXON [illegible] St. Martin. Banbury 8 miles, Oxford 14 miles. An attractive Listed Grade II farmhouse in the village. Hall, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, study, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Enclosed secluded garden. Outbuildings. Private car parking. Available unfurnished. Rent on application. Butler Sherborn (01993) 822325

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Contact Sam: 01444 484613

صكذا عن الاجل

The Crittendens with cider press (background, right)

To the manor sworn

Elizabeth I owned but never slept at Bretforton Manor, now for sale at £850,000 — considerably more than the amount she got in 1576 when she sold it to her favourite, the Earl of Leicester, reputedly at the full market price. So much for royal romance.

Dating from the 14th century and radically remodelled in 1602, the house almost buckled when left derelict in the hard-nosed property market of the early 1990s, until rescued and revived by Janet and Brian Crittenden in an act of faith bordering, as they say, on lunacy. Two otherwise sensible people paid £300,000 as seen, or in this case, as imagined.

The property had been vandalised by the weather; the main staircase, some of the floorboards and all the Elizabethan panelling were missing. The floors reeked of cats and, if there were any other original features left, they were hidden under the black grime of neglect.

Two years, a further £300,000, and 17 assorted builders and craftsmen later, the butter-coloured stone, Grade II listed manor emerged from its tarpaulins, complete with the Elizabethan panelling, which was discovered broken into small sections and rebuilt piece by piece in the entrance hall like a giant jigsaw — a task, I was told, "not as difficult as doing *The Times* crossword".

As I lady-of-the-manored my way through the garden among the oaks, limes and beeches, crunching scarlet yew berries underfoot, it occurred to me that if I was getting six bedrooms, five bathrooms and four reception rooms in 7.3 acres — with outbuildings and grounds worth their own glossy brochure — £850,000 seemed a bargain.

The agent Knight Frank says some people prefer the cachet of living deep in the countryside of the By Royal Appointment neighbouring county of Gloucestershire, where commuting to London is easier, and where this house would fetch about £1.5 million.

However, moving to the Vale of Evesham is hardly being cast into the outer darkness, and living on the edge of a working village whose charter dates from 714, which has not yet been reduced to a dormitory suburb for weekenders, strikes me as a positive advantage.

You can use your personal lych gate to the churchyard, or suddenly appear, pantomime-style, in the village street from one of the many ancient wooden doors set in the garden wall, putting shops, a primary school and a pub all within walking distance.

This is no cold, forbidding pile set in museum aspic; Bretforton has an informal atmosphere of a large village house, despite its many rooms, stone-flagged corridors and beamed, barn-like hall, where the Bathshebas of the Worcester apple world unsettled the harvest suppers, and a muslin-swathed maiden aunt had one vapour too many and expired of TB while admiring the view. Here the apple crop was processed in the 17th-century black-and-white timbered, thatched cider press, still standing in good repair on the lawn and now used as a very superior garden shed.

On the miserable autumn day I visited, the house was full of light — its E-shape giving most rooms windows on two sides. There was no feeling of "I wouldn't like to be alone here watching *Tales of the Unexpected* on a foggy November night".

A surprising amount of its history can still be traced. Local legend has it that the born-again oak panelling was taken from a Spanish fighting ship lost at the time of the Armada.

Little remains of the original 14th-century monastery but the gargoyles over the front porch; a Jacobean ivory-coloured plaster frieze decorates the stairwell; the large stone mullioned and shuttered windows are 17th century, as are, in the kitchen, the beams, hooks, bread oven and ammunition cupboard (positioned near the fireplace to keep the gunpowder dry).

Call me old-fashioned but the thought of this carefully restored house being turned into 12 maisonettes, with two four-bedroomed houses in the courtyard, makes me blanch. The bad news, then, is that the previous owners obtained planning consent for this conversion; the good news is that the Crittendens ignored it.

Being custodians of history does not mean suffering medieval plumbing and first-generation wiring. The basics are up to date and the central heating system is designed so that the house can be warmed in four separate zones.

And the house is only the half of it. The grounds had reverted to nature so enthusiastically that the Crittendens didn't realise they owned an orchard until one of their children, clearing the brambles, discovered a wooden bridge by the lake and explored.

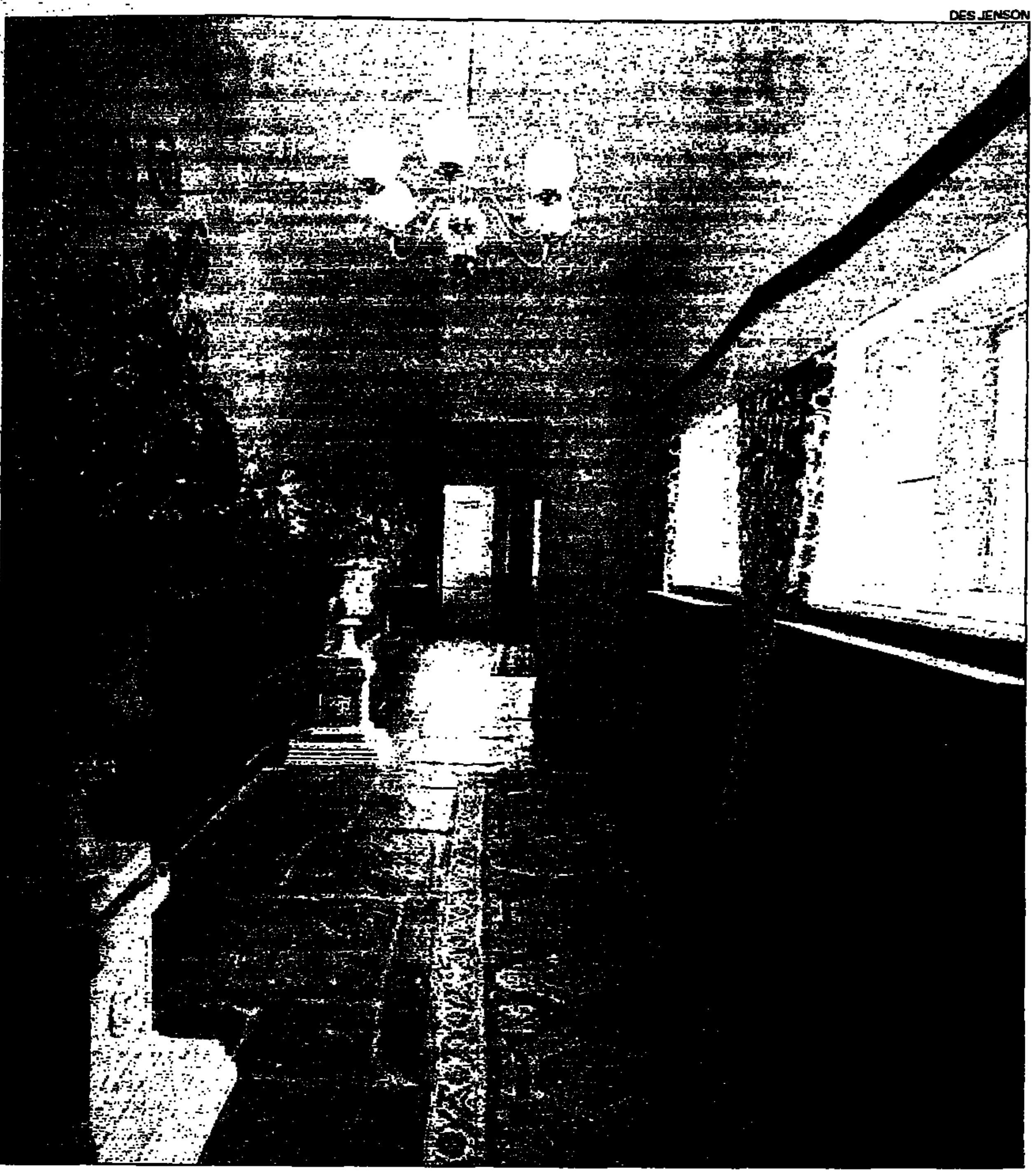
Step out on to the lawn, where the Bretforton Silver Band plays for charity in summer and at Christmas, towards the edge of the copse by the all-white garden. There stands the unrestored Victorian aviary where canaries once sang, and the apiary.

Stroll a little further to inspect the dovecote and village stocks waiting for their moment to come again.

Do not think that the Crittendens have done *all* the work for you: the coach-house, stables and tack room are unrestored, full of dust, clutter, ancient oak cupboards, and an enclosed staircase. This is left for future generations of the next family to make their mark.

CHRISTINE WHEELER

- For sale through Knight Frank, Oxford (01865 790077).



DES JENSON

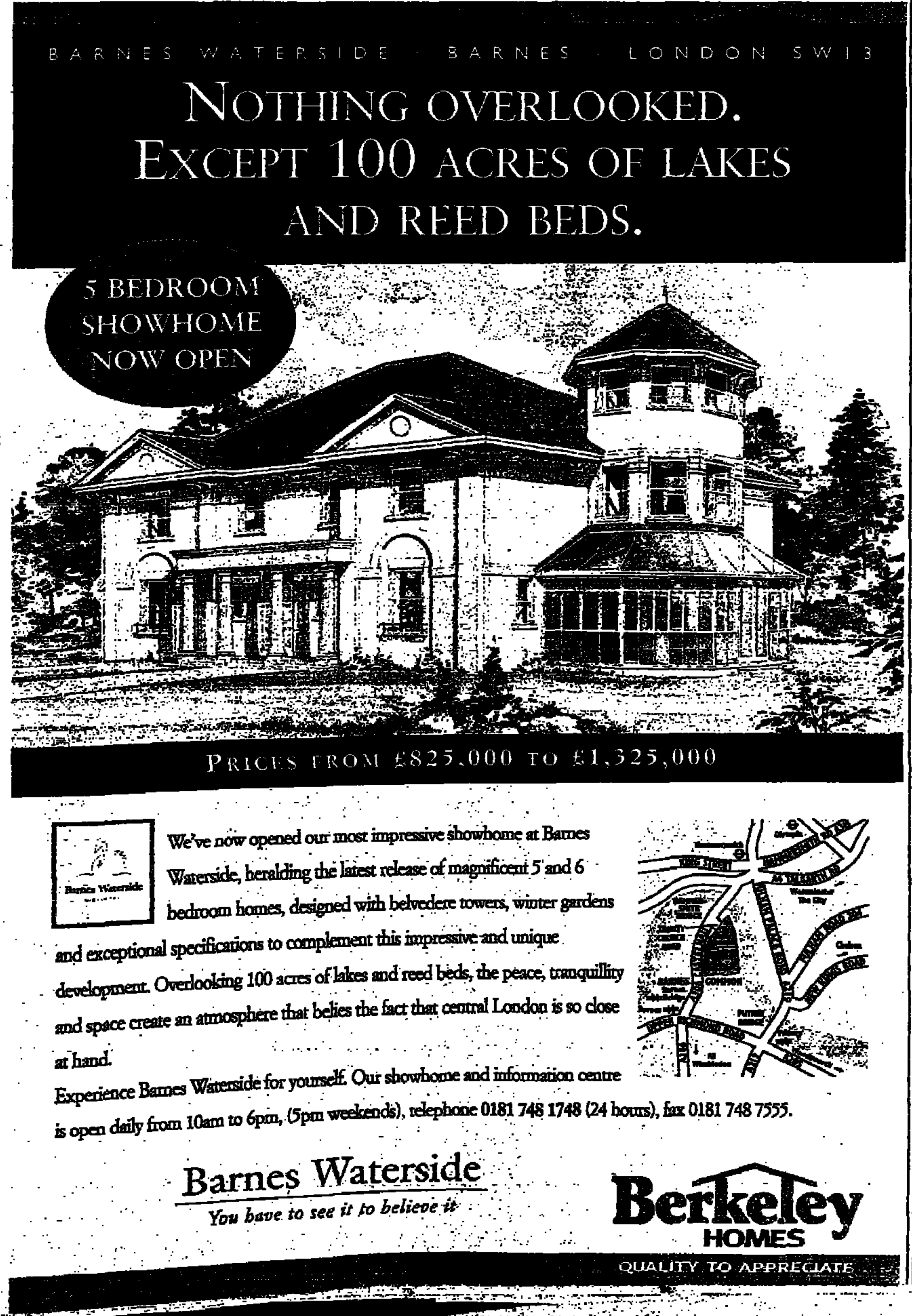
A paved corridors at Bretforton Manor, which took two years and more than £300,000 to restore to its original splendour

The refurbished hall, fireplace and Elizabethan panelling

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Bretforton Manor, Bretforton, Evesham, Worcestershire ○ **Price:** £850,000 ○ **Setting:** Off the beaten track, 4 miles east of Evesham close to Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border, but easy helicopter ride from Harvey Nichols. Reasonably close to Cheltenham for the races or the ladies' college depending on your priorities. ○ **Shopping:** Bretforton village has managed to keep hold of its post office, primary school, shops, newsagent and two pubs. Nearest shopping Birmingham.

NEW HOMES



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The final stage of construction comprises 21 unique duplex penthouses. Finished to the highest internal specification, each have large (up to 800 sq ft) roof gardens, and spectacular views over the City, or towards Hampstead.

From its grand foyer and spectacular conservatories, to the formal landscaped gardens, the building has been acclaimed for its exquisite detailing. State-of-the-art amenities also include a fully equipped leisure facility, 24 hour management, and garaging.

TWO AND THREE BEDROOM TWIN-LEVEL PENTHOUSES WITH LARGE ROOFTOP GARDENS

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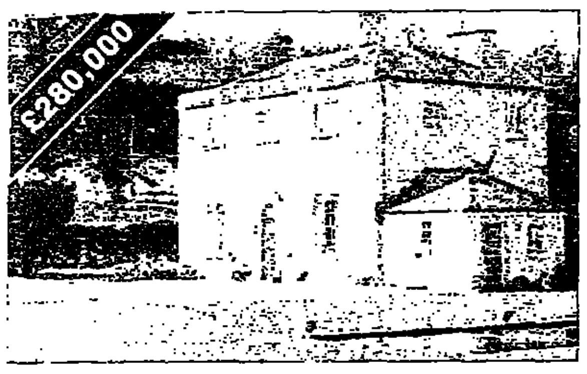
THE FINE ART OF LOFT LIVING

Developer
BALLYMORE
http://www.ballymore.co.uk

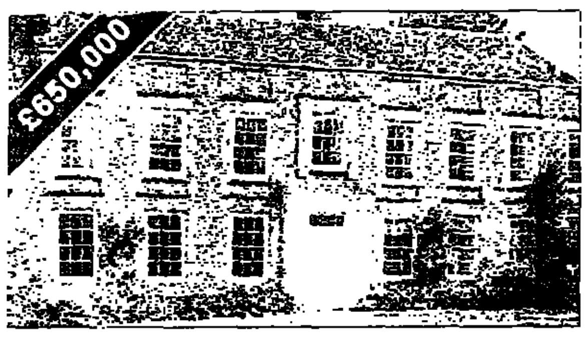
FOR SALE

HISTORIC HOUSES

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Staunton Court near Gloucester. *Historic Grade II listed courthouse,* arable farm and business centre. Eight bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen and offices. It was from here that Dick Whittington is reputed to have started his journey to become Lord Mayor of London *About £1.8 million (Savills, 01295 263535)*



DORSET
Frampton House Frampton. Remaining Grade II listed east wing of *what was once Frampton Court, a Georgian mansion, owned by the* playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan and his family until 1932. Four bedrooms two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen and utility room. Garage, stables and eight acres of gardens and paddocks. *About £280 000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff 01305 262123)*

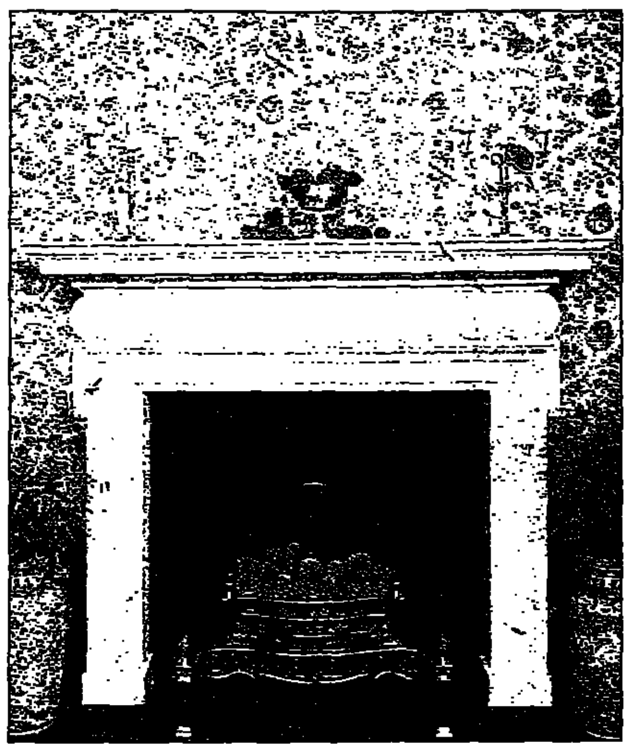


KENT
Eastry Court, Eastry near Sandwich. Grade I listed house in 1.6 acres of gardens and grounds, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest inhabited remains in Britain. The house was built for King Ethelbert *and Queen Bertha of Kent in AD 603 on the site of a former* archiepiscopal palace. It was handed to the monks of Christ Church in Canterbury in AD 827 by King Ethelred the Unready. Eight bedrooms, two bathrooms, two shower-rooms, four reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room. Outbuildings. About £650,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123)

CHERYL TAYLOR

Fireplace sales hot up

Today's fire surrounds add more than sentimental value to a home



This early 18th-century English marble fire surround is for sale at £19.500 by Crowther of Syon Lodge, Middlesex

On a crisp autumn or winter's day, there is nothing quite like the crackle of logs burning in a grate, the pop of chestnuts roasting out of their skins, and the taste of crumpets toasted before the flames.

After years of being spurned by modern housebuilders, and with the growth of central heating, fireplace surrounds are now so greatly admired that they are becoming status symbols. A good surround can be costly. One English Rococo marble specimen was sold recently for £450.000 by Crowther of Syon Lodge, Isleworth, Middlesex, specialists in architectural antiques.

The company's showroom offers dozens of fire surrounds, including an elegant early 18th-century English marble example at £19,500, an elaborately carved early 19th-century marble one from the former Iranian Embassy in London (gutted by fire at the end of the 1980 siege) at £50,000, and a £30.000 Regency example from Melton Lodge, London, with a centre tablet showing a family of beavers building their lodge.

Such pieces add value to properties, says Edward Caudwell, of the Chelsea estate agents Aylesford. "We sold a house in Petersham, southwest London, in which the client had put in two fire *surrounds and said that they* were available only by separate negotiation. The buyer paid several thousand extra to keep them.

"At a £500,000 house we sold, the owner took a surround with him because it was a wedding present." Had the building been listed he could have met with opposition, because such listings usually cover fireplaces, even if they are not the same age as the house.

The value of a fire surround *can lead to other* problems. The playwright Christopher Hampton, who *recently moved to* Notting Hill, west London, was dismayed to find all the fireplaces *in his new* house had been stolen, including one he had transported from his old home in Hammersmith.

Peter Wetherell, of agency Wetherells, says: "We have a property in St James's Square where there's 24-hour security because the fireplaces are worth a fortune."

Most fire surrounds are surprisingly easy to remove, since they are usually held to the wall only by half a dozen wire or screw ties, covered with a superficial layer of plaster. They often divide into four pieces: mantel, two uprights and the centrepiece.

"Sometimes, we cement these fireplaces in while a building is being refurbished," Mr Wetherell says. "When we show buyers around, they see a bunker on the wall. We have to ask *them to take our word for it* that there is a fireplace."

But, once, he was wrong: "A *thief came and stole the* fireplaces from behind their bunkers, then re-concreted. We had no idea they were gone until the property was sold and we took the bunkers away. Now, many of our clients take chimney pieces out, put them in secure storage while they develop a property, then put them back when it's finished."

Developers are aware of the value of good fire sur*rounds. North Acre is* refurbishing 25 houses in Kensington, London, and replacing missing surrounds with marble reproductions.

Another developer, Thirlstone Homes, commissioned Lord Linley's Furniture Company to make ten fire surrounds costing several thousand pounds. "We felt they gave the houses individuality," says Tony Pidgley, the managing direc*tor. "When buyers are choos*ing their fire surrounds we find they often pay a lot more *than the builder's allowance.* If we allowed £1,000 for one, we'd sometimes find they would spend £2,500."

Some builders and homeowners buy antique fire surrounds from specialist yards. Mick Clarke, of Clarke's of Buckfastleigh, Devon, says: "There's no textbook guide to the value of an antique fireplace. My prices fluctuate according to whether it's difficult to get something, and how easy it is to sell. There are very few Regency and Georgian *houses in this* area, so it is hard to sell fireplaces from those eras.

"We have a classic Regency marble fire surround with bull's eye rondels that would be sought after in Bath or Cheltenham that we're selling at £900. A similar style in pine sells for about £245, which is roughly where our Victorian iron inserts start.

"A *Victorian Sicilian* grey-flecked white marble surround costs £900 to £1,200."

Marble is as popular now for a fire surround as it was in the late 19th century when people who could not afford the real thing bought slate surrounds skilfully painted to mimic marble.

*There is also a new de*mand for Welsh slate fireplaces, and Cwt y Bugail Slate Quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, restarted production six years ago. A full fireplace costs £1,200, but most developers buy a single £60 slab of slate to form a floor for a wood-burning stove.

Stone fire surrounds are also enjoying a revival. Farmington Stone, of Northleach, Gloucestershire, makes Cotswold stone ver*sions for various builders,* including Beazers and Bryant. Prices start at £300, rising to £10.000 for intricately carved one-offs.

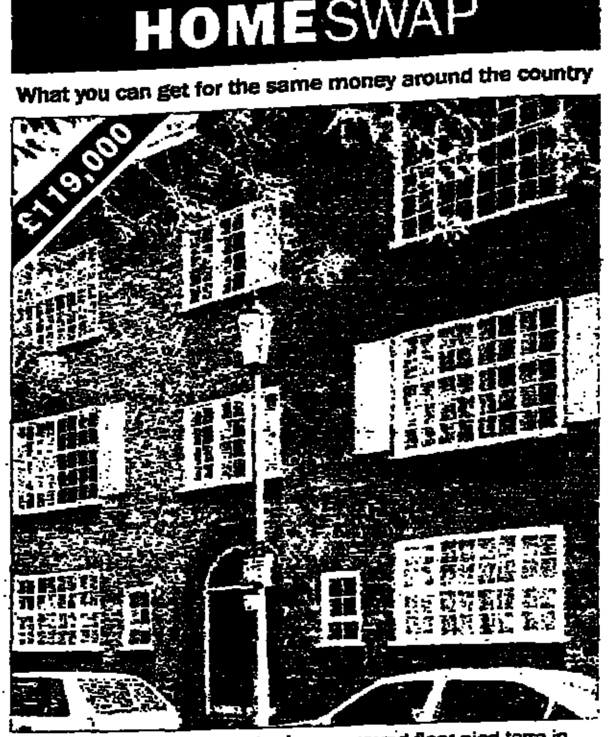
"An American billionaire, who fell in love with a Cotswold mansion while touring over here, decided to build an exact replica in Pennsylvania, and we were commissioned to supply the architectural stonework and the fire surrounds," says Martin Robins, of Farmington's. "Now, deep in the *heart of America, you can sit* around a Cotswold stone fireplace and warm the cock*les of your heart."*

CHRISTINE WEBB

● Crowther of Syon Lodge, 0181-560 7978. Clarke's of Buckfastleigh, 01364 643060. Thirlstone Homes, 01932 242600. Farmington Stone, 01451 860280.

HOMESWAP

What you can get for the same money around the country

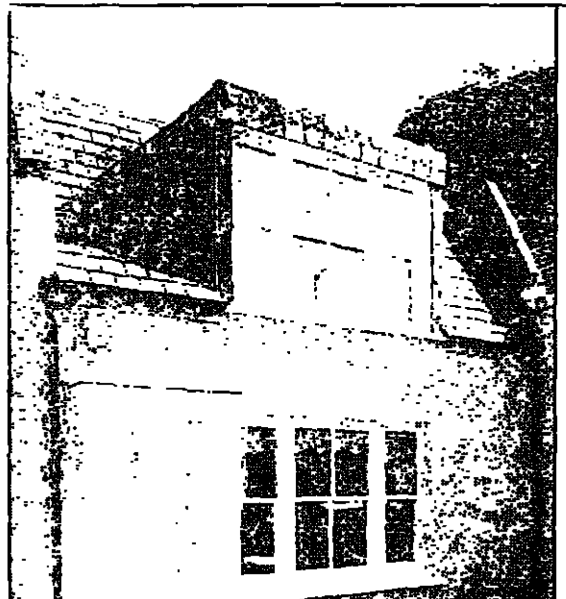


A 76-year lease on this one-bedroom ground-floor pied terre in Rosemoor Street, Chelsea, west London (above) costs £119,000. *Winkworth, 0171-589 6616*

Alternatively, £120,000 would secure this Grade II listed three-bedroom period cottage in the picturesque village of West Scrafton, near Leyburn in the North Yorkshire dales (above). It was once used as a holiday home by the author James Herriot. *GA Property Services, 01969 623451*

For the same price, you could buy this detached three-bedroom character cottage, near Rye in East Sussex (above). It has an inglenook fireplace, exposed beams, a separate studio, double garage and a large garden backing onto woodland. GA Property Services, 01797 252366

CHERYL TAYLOR



PEMBROKE WALK
Kensington W8

In a quiet cul-de-sac, an immaculately presented house on only two floors with a parking space.

2 bedrooms, bathroom, drawing room, kitchen/dining room, south facing patio

Freehold

£415,000

KENSINGTON:
0171-727 0705

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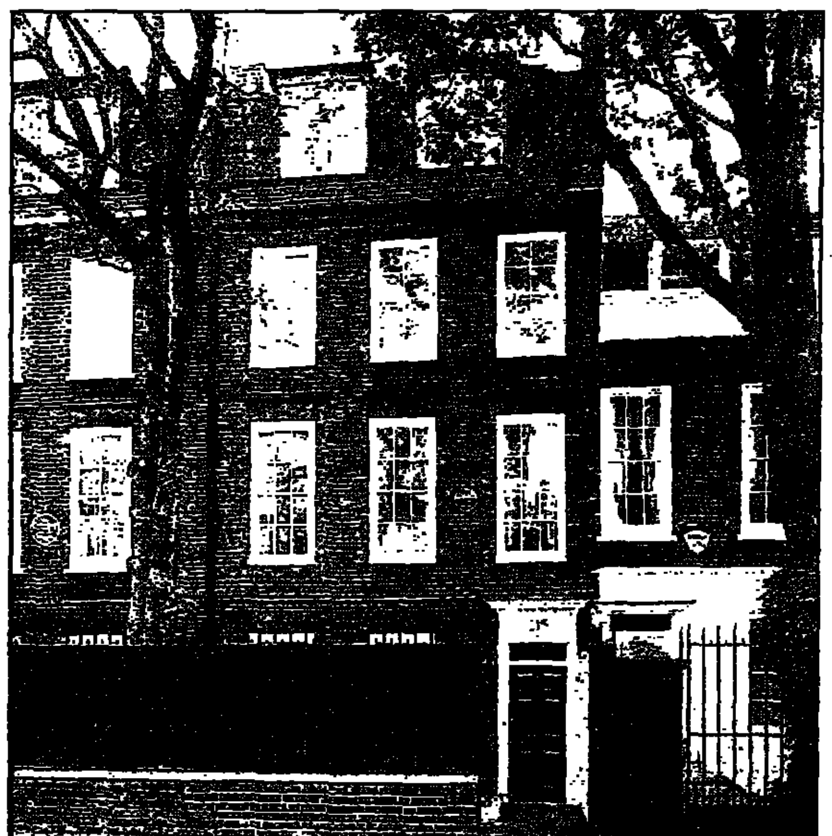


KING'S ROAD Chelsea SW3 Freehold £1,000,000

Near Glebe Place in an area known for many interesting artists' studios, a fine *modernised Georgian house with a studio and secluded, south facing garden.* 4 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 receps, kitchen, front and rear gardens, studio 6.7m x 5.5m (22ft x 18ft).

CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484

CAMDEN TOWN NW1

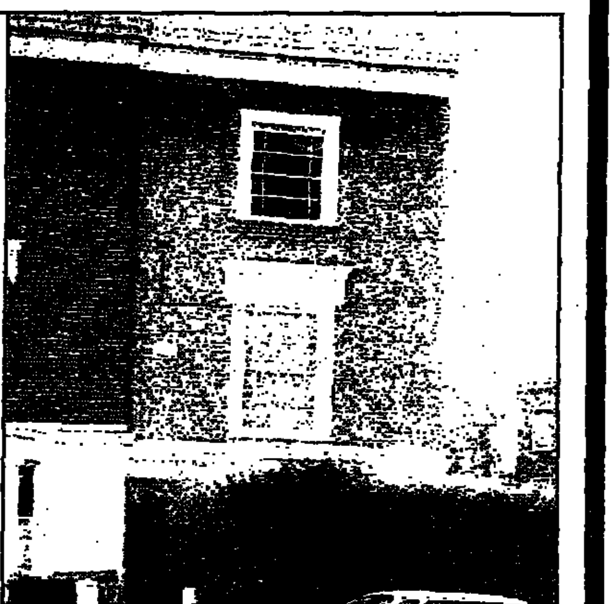
Quietly located at the end of a cul-de-sac, a charming end-of-terrace Victorian house on 3 floors requiring some work and convenient for underground and BR stations.

3/4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 shower rooms, 2/3 reception rooms, kitchen, lovely well stocked walled garden.

Freehold

£290,000

ST JOHN'S WOOD:
0171-722 5556



HAMPSHIRE – Near Bucklers Hard Price Guide: £275,000

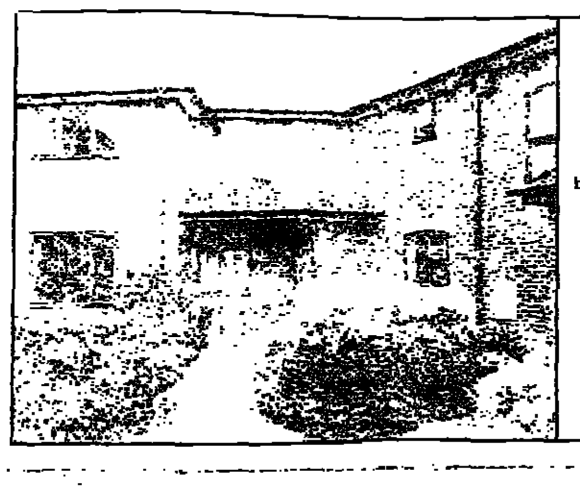
A fascinating conversion of a rural chapel into a charming country house with views to the Isle of Wight and just over a mile to the Beaulieu River. 3 beds (2 ground floor), shower rm, bathroom (ground floor), 2 receps, kitchen, cloakroom, garage mature garden.

PAUL JACKSON: 01590 674411 JOHN D WOOD & CO: 01590 677233

SURREY – Near Richmond Park Freehold £895,000

A beautifully presented detached family house with a superb indoor swimming pool complex, billiards room and hard tennis court. 5 beds (3 suites), cloakroom, laundry, 2 formal receps, family room, study area, kitchen, 3 car garage, extensive parking, about 0.2ha (0.6 acres).

WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172



CONDRAY PLACE
Battersea SW11

In a development just to the south of Battersea Bridge, an attractive house in good order. 4 beds, bath, shower rm, recep, dining rm/kit, clkrm, south facing garden, communal off-street parking. Designated parking space available separately.

Freehold
£260,000

BATTERSEA:
0171-228 0174

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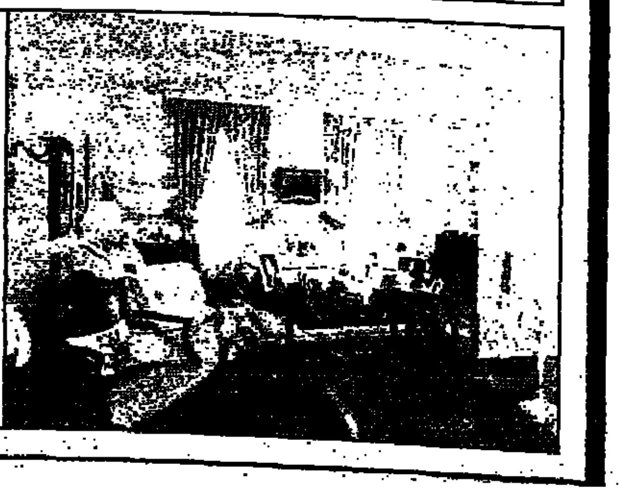
EATON MEWS SOUTH SW1

In a quiet Belgravia *mews,* an attractive and well presented house arranged over 3 floors. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, drawing room, study, kitchen, garage.

Lease to 2050
£595,000

BELGRAVIA:
0171-730 9854



صورة من الاصل

Now let us praise the knacker's yard men

by
PAUL HEINEY

Easy though it is to moan about what the countryside does *not* have, let us, for one moment, give thanks to two noble rural callings which have come to my rescue this past week. Neither, I am afraid, make a first choice of breakfast reading; more tender souls may wish to save this article until later. But these things are the *everyday* nuts and bolts of rural life. The first is septic tanks, the second is moribund livestock.

I have owned two septic tanks in my life. I was desperately proud of the first, and am somewhat ashamed of the second. Plumbers from far and wide used to come and pay their respects to the first; they would lift the iron lids and gaze in wonderment into the bubbling depths, marvelling at brickwork that only a Victorian could have created.

It was truly like a temple in there; curved arches of bright red brick as carefully crafted as any town hall entrance. The whole edifice was built in three sections, the contents cascading from one to the next, at every fall becoming purer until, at the end, there was nothing left but water. This soaked away into the orchard and gave us bumper crops. It never gave off odour, never needed attention, never required emptying. It was a perfect marriage of biochemistry and brickwork. And I *miss it dreadfully*.

We now have a septic tank built in the 1970s, and it is a poor imitation. Instead of being able to forget all about it, as I could with my first, this one regularly draws my attention to it. First, it emits a slight odour and, if I ignore that, it will start to heave its lids at me like something from a Spielberg movie. It is telling me it is full. It should *never* be full. I have tried telling it to get its idle act together and learn a bit of basic biochemistry, anaerobics and all that, but it will have none of it. The result is that I phone the tanker driver who comes with his great stinking sucker and solves the problem for a while.

The septic tank man is the first of the rural callings to which I ask you to give thanks. He is descended from a noble lineage that can trace its roots back to the night-soil man who trundled through the dark with his horse and cart, emptying privies.

Of course, towns are not without their sewage engineers, but the difference for country folk is that we have to face ours, look them and our residues in the face. Those of us who have no access to the main drains have to take care of the business ourselves.

Have you tried to make small talk to a man who is emptying your cesspit? I could easily close the windows, hide and let him get on with it, but it seems only right to share in the grief. After all, if he gets lonely out there he might decide to pack the whole business in, and who then would deal with the filthy rising tide?

I am grateful to him and his profession for the service he provides. And also to the man who this week had to remove from the farm the carcass of my daughter's pony. Ebony was struck down, as horses sometimes are, by a sudden, crippling abdominal problem which reduced her from full fitness to final torment in a matter of hours.

It is bad enough to have to watch the painful death of a much-loved family pony; there is another kind of panic when one considers what to do after the vet has administered that kindest form of *medicine*; the exploding bolt of the humane killer.

Knackermen, as they are still called, are members of another profession for which we must be grateful. Knackering is never going to be offered as a career option to school leavers, applicants for an NVQ in it would be few and far between, and I fear they are never going to make it on to a calendar of rural crafts. But when it comes to the humane and dignified treatment of dead or dying animals — particularly horses — knackermen can claim to have done as much for animal welfare as any number of fancy sanctuaries.

Much as it may distress us, there comes a time in an animal's life when the bullet is the kindest thing. I would not wish to press the trigger, or deal with the aftermath, and remain thankful that there are men who will.

It is another of those essential rural jobs that is hanging on by a hair's breadth. As was explained to me, tactfully, deadstock used to be collected free of charge; now it costs £60. It is because the knacker used to be able to sell the bones and offal to be rendered into bonemeal. But the latest controls over possible BSE have put a stop to that.

I gladly paid for a decent disposal of Ebony, thankful that it was available; I shudder to think of the financial blow the new charges must be to farmers — hill farmers, for instance — already operating on the breadline.

Anyway, as I watched the stiff, black body of the poor mare being winched unceremoniously into the back of the truck, destined probably for pet food, I remembered the days even before my daughter rode her, when she was my smart driving pony and we trotted through lanes, sniffing blossom together, enjoying the fresh air, the thrill of the open road; the icing on the cake of country living.

Sometimes there are things about real life out here that are raw and difficult to swallow; the bits that the glossy country magazines never feature, the crumbs of daily rural life that are to few people's taste.

It does not mean these things should be forgotten.

● Readers can write to The Times Countryside Campaign, c/o Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

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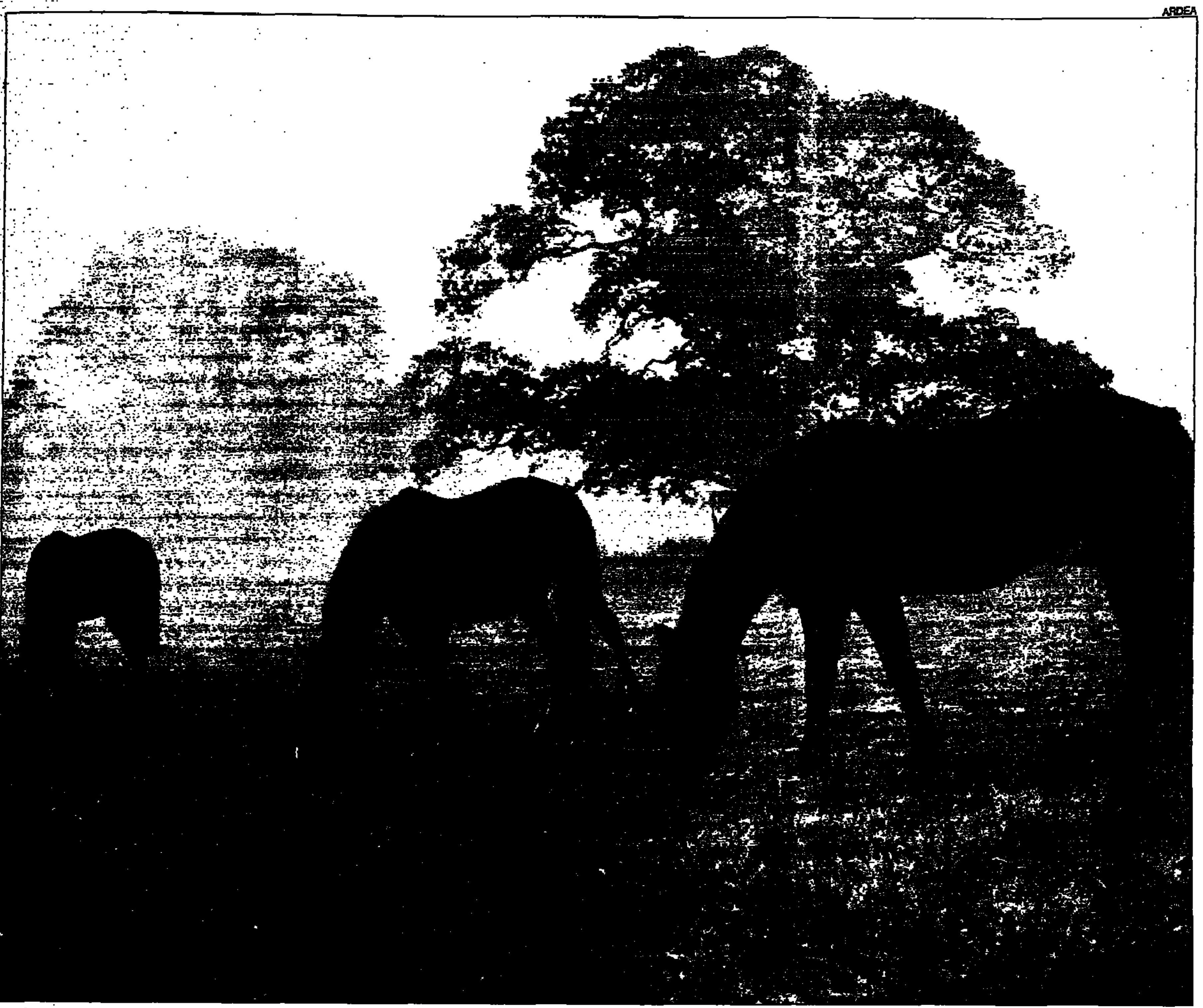

When an old or sick horse at last reaches the end of its life it is the knackermen who provide the final, humane treatment, an essential rural job that is under threat

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RONALD FAUX on how artificial paths can save the Lake District

Just too many feet to the acre

If you fly slowly over the Lake District hills in a small aircraft, the erosion inflicted by the sheer pressure of feet springs into alarming focus. Like scars on a familiar face, worn footpaths stand livid against the giant flanks of Helvellyn and Skiddaw. The track to the summit of Grisedale Pike has the pallor of bone breaking the surface of skin. As the aircraft banks above the pathway across High Street, between Froswick and Rampsgill Head, more wear and tear is plainly visible.

The earliest was caused by the feet of Roman legionnaires, who marched this way a couple of millennia ago. A few more million feet have added their impression in dark, widening stains where the ground is soft, or in shining smoothness where the surface cover has worn away to the rock.

Over Kirkstone Pass, cars wind their way like a procession of ants. But the good news is that the Lake District Tourist Board has discovered that, mercifully, only a minority of motorists venture more than a few yards from their vehicles.

Ambleside is at the centre of a spider's web of tracks, the Fairfield Horseshoe picked out in a grey, metallic line where passing feet put a polish on the underlying granite. Westward into the amphitheatre of Great Langdale we glide above the slopes created by Pike o' Stickle, Rossett Crag and Bow Fell, names that have magic in them to those who love this place.

The scars are plainly visible; scars inflicted by those who, ironically, come here to admire the very scenery that is, perhaps, threatened by their presence.

Professional and volunteer groups are dedicated to stemming a seemingly implacable tide, one not unique to the Lake District. In the neighbouring Yorkshire Dales, Three Peaks Walk has become a man-made causeway one metre wide, threading across moorland in a line of hardcore dumped by helicopter.

In the Lake District, the National Park Authority, the tourist board, the National Farmers' Union and the Friends of the Lake District agonise over ways to protect

pressure than most. But it seems that as one footpath is repaired, another batch of Lake District walking guides hits the bookshelves, introducing another stampede of feet into newly-discovered corners of Cumbria.

Peter Davies, the area manager of the Lake District National Park, says the solution to erosion of footpaths in the upland areas is not to stop people enjoying the hills but to find ways of minimis-

ers' boots and protecting the landscape. He talks about creating "sensitive paths" that blend in with the landscape but which can carry the number of people using the hills.

English Nature, North West Water and the National Park Authority, with financial backing from the European Regional Development Fund, are working out integrated management plans for two upland areas covering (about 27,000 acres) of massif surrounding Helvellyn and Skiddaw.

They have started by counting the numbers of walkers, runners and mountain-bikers who take to the hills on a fine day. From one car park alone on the slopes of Skiddaw, 600 people a week set out.

Alasdair Brock, a project officer, suggests that controls must be subtle. Limiting car park space could be one way. Eighty-five per cent of the people who climb to the 3,054ft summit of Skiddaw arrive at the foot by car.

Another control might be to realign paths away from sensitive areas; walkers are probably unaware they are destroying rhacomitrium heath, which is rare and does not take kindly to being trampled on or, for that matter, nibbled by sheep.

On Helvellyn, the project steering group has produced a plan more pragmatic than cunning. They have set up a users' forum to resolve conflicts of interest.

England's only population of downy willow is being protected by strict conservation measures and an area of juniper woodland is being regenerated.

On Dollywaggon Pike, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has revived a badly worn footpath to make an attractive alternative to the nearby Striding Edge, a rocky knife-edge under immense pressure from fell walkers.

Sir Chris Bonington, the president of the Council of National Parks and a resident in the Lake District National Park, believes the programme of professional and voluntary work, in its many strands, is allowing rugged yet fragile mountain areas to absorb the impact of too many feet.

He insists that reducing the numbers of people going into the hills, apart from being difficult to achieve, must never be seen as a solution. The thud of feet may be deafening but he remains sanguine.

"Building upland footpaths in a sensitive way actually enables an ever-increasing number of people to enjoy our British hills without doing them severe damage and, at the same time, enables the hills to

H. ASHTON

Catbells (1,482ft), near Derwentwater, is one of the areas where paths are being worn away to bare rock by walkers

---

Mystery of the bouncing bird

FEATHER REPORT

LAST WEEKEND I saw a jack snipe. I was in a hide in Hertfordshire that looks over the marshy edge of a small lake. Outside, in the damp sedge, was a small bird crouching motionless.

At first glance it might have been a lump of dead vegetation or mud. But if you looked hard you could see it was a plump little bird, with its head buried between its brown shoulders. Along its back there was a yellow-buff line that gleamed in the sun.

It was clearly a snipe, and from its size it seemed to be a jack snipe, which is three inches shorter than a common snipe. However, sizes of birds are hard to judge, and the only clear difference is that the jack snipe's beak is very much shorter. But this bird's beak was hidden.

A common snipe obligingly came wading across from a muddy island at that moment, displaying plainly its long, pencil-like beak. It looked a much bigger bird than mine, yet the comparison was still, I felt, not decisive.

The mystery bird remained motionless, sleeping confidently. Out on a muddy island in the lake I watched some teal who were also sleeping; then two green sandpipers came skittering in, their white rumps flashing, and landed by the teal. The jack snipe, if that was what it was, remained stubbornly still.

After a while I decided to go for a walk, and just hope that it would still be there when I came back, but more ready to shift itself. I found two grey herons, also motionless, in a wet meadow, and a very active flock of long-tailed tits, swinging on the twigs of some willows.

But I was impatient, and after half an hour went back again. The almost featureless hump was still there, in exactly the same spot. The green sandpipers were bathing now, splashing about in the water, then came out and preened.

Surely the hump would move soon. And then it did.

shoulders, and I could see the short beak clearly. I could even see the other diagnostic feature — the absence of a stripe down the crown of the head. It was definitely a jack snipe.

And I was to have further confirmation. Suddenly the bird started bouncing up and down on the spot. It was an extraordinary movement, like some kind of clockwork toy.

THIS STRANGE behaviour, with the whole body bouncing up and down, is only found in the jack snipe, and in its large relative, the woodcock. It is thought to disturb worms and encourages them to the surface.

As it happened, I went to see Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra the following night — and he sometimes bounced up and down on bended legs in exactly the same way as my jack snipe. He was extracting music from the orchestra, not worms from the earth — but it seemed to give a pattern to my weekend.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** Birders — watch out for goosanders on larger gravel pits and reservoirs. Twitchers — black and white warbler, Trowse, Norwich; desert wheatear, Salthouse, Norfolk; Pallas's warbler, Cromer, Norfolk. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a min

WINDRUSH PHOTOS

The jack snipe is smaller than the common snipe and has a very much shorter beak

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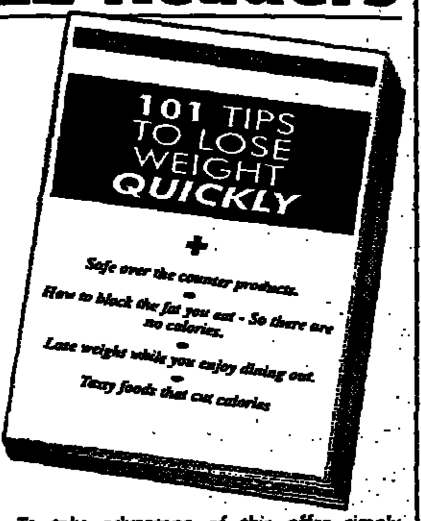
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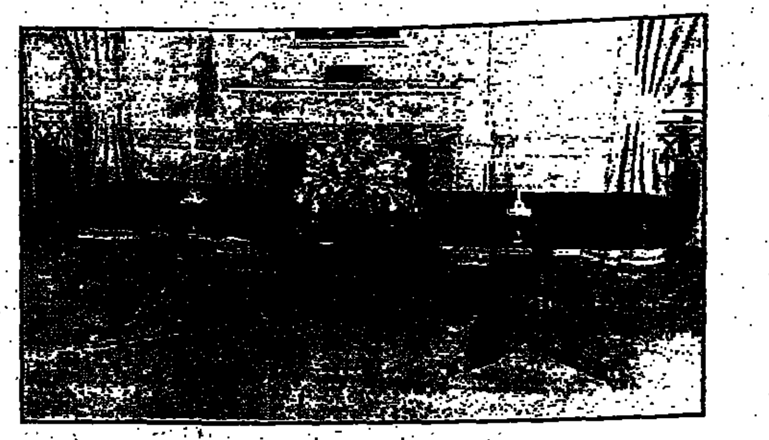

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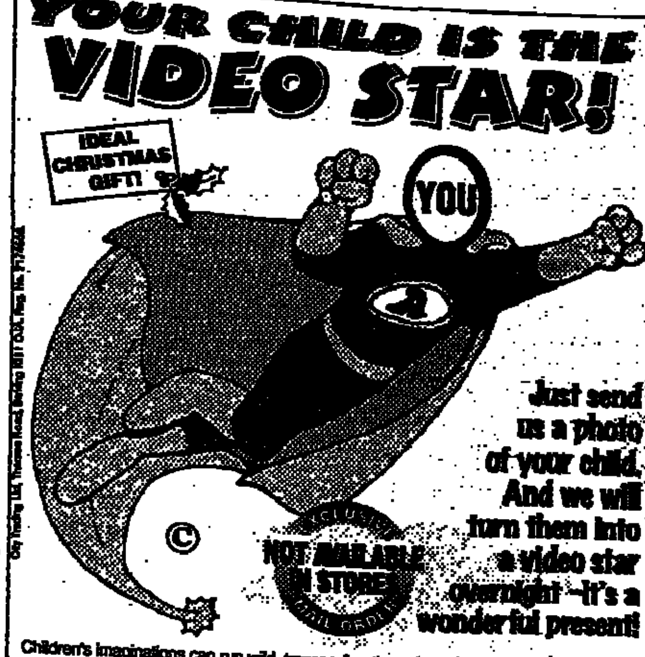

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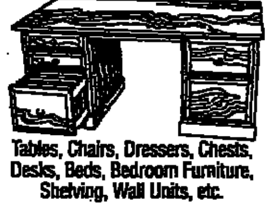

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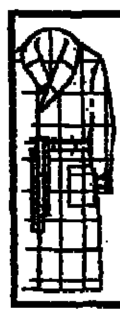

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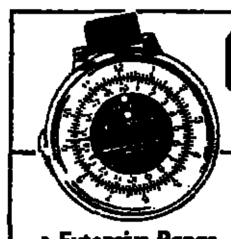

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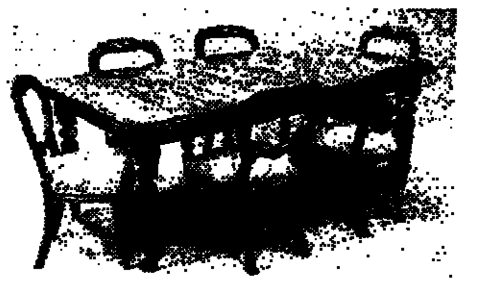

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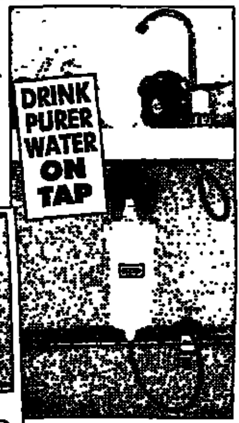

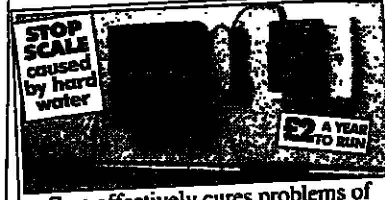

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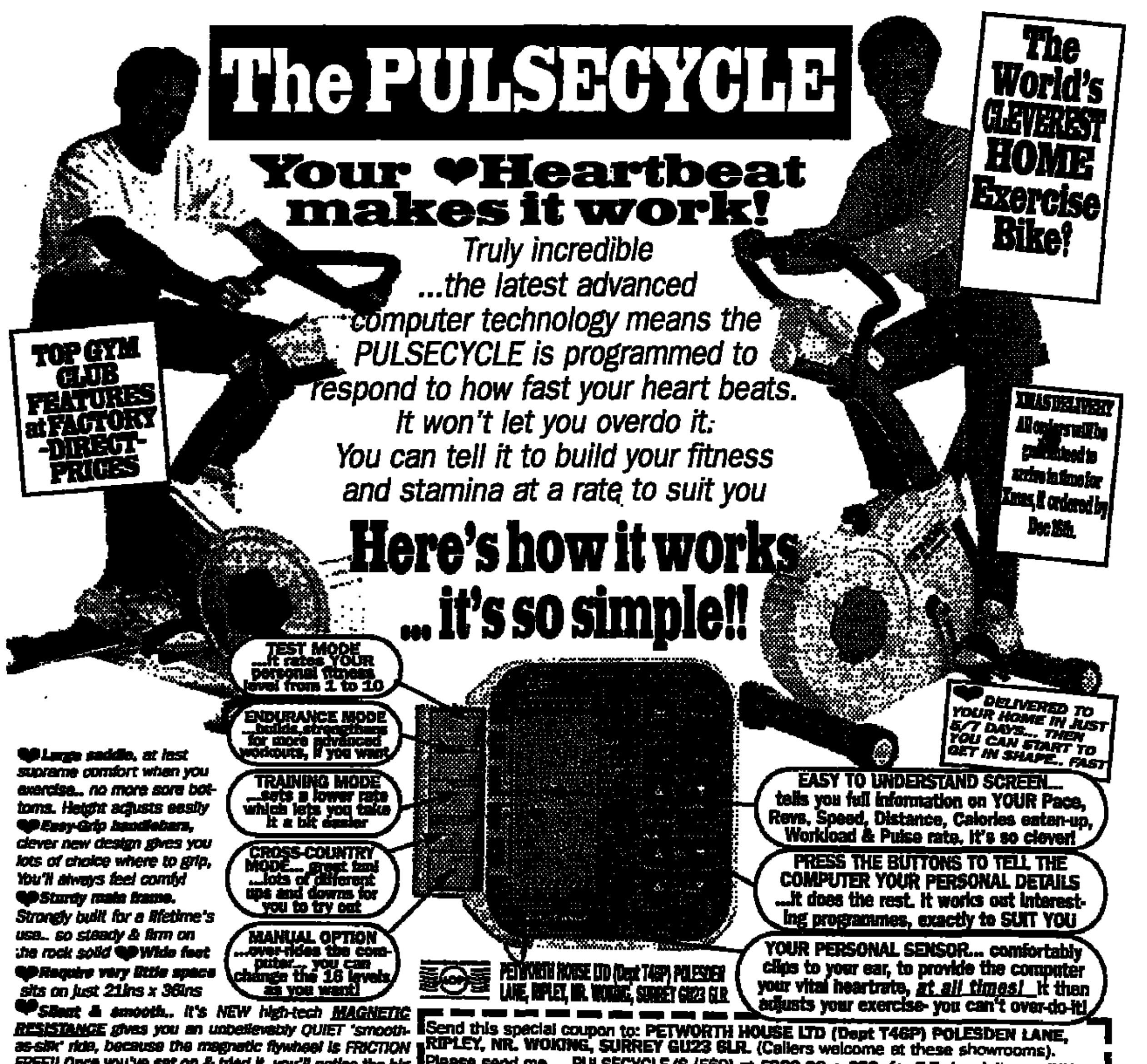
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Fido is a wolf in dogs' clothing

A TV programme tonight explores the wild origin of dogs, the real reason why they bark at the postman and their relationships with owners. **NIGEL HAWKES** reports

Today's dogs, as varied as the great dane and the Yorkshire terrier, all owe their origins to the wolf. Their instincts and behaviour, even after thousands of years of domestication, still bear the traces of this ancestry.

Quiet and obedient as they may seem, a more violent and combative nature lies not far below the surface. That Dr Jekyll lying by the fireside can become Mr Hyde when threatened, or when he ventures out of doors.

The private life of the dog is explored in an innovative documentary, *A Dog's World*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight. The programme is an attempt to enter the mind of the dog, to show how they perceive us and the world around them. (Cat-lovers can see the same attempt made to understand their pets next week.)

The dog, says the documentary, is basically a wolf in an arrested state of development — the result of a process known to evolutionary biologists as neoteny.

Wolf puppies are playful, rolling around and threatening nobody. As they get older, they begin to carry things around, showing the instinct to retrieve is genetically imprinted. Later still they learn to herd fleeing animals by running around them in circles, and finally they learn to hunt.

Traces of most of these behaviours are commonplace in dogs. The film shows a family taking its two dogs for a walk in the park. One of the dogs insists on circling incessantly around the group, responding to the ancient urge to herd. But few domestic dogs actually hunt today, if you exclude killing rats and mice, at which they can be swift and skilful.

Looking at various breeds of dog it is possible to identify the stage at which development has been arrested. The research was originally done by Professor Raymond Coppinger, of Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. The Pyrenean mountain dog, originally bred to mix with flocks of sheep in the mountains and discourage wolves, is a great puppy-like creature that does not herd, retrieve or hunt. But it retains strong pack instincts and is ready to defend sheep against the attacks of foxes or other dogs. This particular breed has been successfully reintroduced in France and the United States, greatly reducing sheep losses.

Corgis are closer to the wild

Most breeds of dog are the product of arresting the normal course of development at different stages. Retrievers reached the second stage, border collies the third. Corgis, well known for their propensity to nip, are closer to the wild type — but few dogs today go the whole way and learn to hunt. That needs training, and dogs that are separated from their mothers at eight weeks and begin living in intimate association with humans never get such an education.

What they do retain, and what tonight's programme illustrates, is a strong pack instinct. In wolves, the hierarchy of the pack is maintained through ritual behaviour, and much the same happens in the home. Dogs are not natural egalitarians. As members of the human pack, they are constantly attempting to assert their position, or to improve it in subtle ways, such as winning the right to sit in a certain chair.

Often they will assert these rights in the absence of the pack leader, but fall back into line as soon as he or she appears.

The acute hearing of dogs enables them to leap to the defence of their pack long before any human has detected a threat. A black labrador named Quail, which features in the documentary, can recognise the sound of his owner's car engine several streets away, picking up the characteristic whine of the gearbox and a rubbing fan belt. The ability to detect and distinguish such high-pitched sounds once helped dogs find small prey, and a dog today can still locate the source of a sound in one 600th of a second.

Defence of the pack also lies behind the barking that greets the milkman and the postman every morning. Dogs do not bark to communicate with one another — hunting wolves have much subtler forms of communication — but they have learnt that barking alerts the human pack.

The behaviour is strongly reinforced because it works: bark at the milkman and he goes away. The fact that he would go away anyway is lost on a dog.

The most obscure part of a dog's life for us is scent. This is a whole sensual world denied to us because we lack a canine nose. The average dog, the programme asserts, has 220 million scent receptors in its nose, while we have only about five million. If the membranes of the dog's nose were laid out flat they would cover seven square metres, against half a square metre for humans.

The process of stroking and petting a dog spreads common odours throughout the pack, reinforcing allegiance. To a dog it is a mystery why humans wash away their familiar scents every day, for a dog prefers animal scents to any other. A dog can detect butyric acid, a constituent of human sweat, in concentrations a million times lower than we can.

The incredible sensitivity of a dog's nose may explain how they can appear sensitive to human mood, perhaps detecting tiny changes in body scents that are lost on the rest of us.

Louise Jones, of the production company Wall to Wall, which made the programmes on dogs and cats, says they are an attempt to move away from the time-honoured tradition of natural history filming. "Doing it that way, you send a cameraman away for weeks and weeks and write a film around what he manages to get," she said. "That seemed to us to be back to front."

ARDEA

As members of the human pack, dogs try to assert their position, such as sitting in a certain chair

The approach taken in the two programmes was, she says, to develop a tight script first and know what they wanted to film before they went out. "It doesn't mean you necessarily get it, of course. But we wanted to make the films more like dramas, and we also wanted to incorporate humans. The traditional natural history film makes a strange creature seem familiar — we wanted to show the strangeness in a familiar creature."

● *A Dog's Life* is on Channel 4 tonight at 8pm.

A VET WRITES

WE ARE LIVING longer, and so too are our pets — and for the same reasons: a better diet, and plenty of it, better medical care, and better and warmer housing. Old age cannot be avoided — nor the associated problems with senility. Animals are designed to last for a limited life. Then bits and pieces start to wear out. Kidneys become inefficient filters, hearts don't pump as well as they did and joint surfaces become eroded: teeth wear down, sight and hearing fail.

Wild animals don't have these difficulties because few reach old age. Only the agile and quick-witted escape predators — or win battles with their own kind. Death in nature is often violent and early in life.

Pets are protected from most hazards. The majority of pets reach old age because of good care and attention from their owners, which makes those last years enjoyable, comfortable and interesting.

Old dogs and cats sleep a lot, so make sure they have a good bed, just above ground level (jumping up is hard work) and large enough to allow them to stretch out. Changing position takes the ache out of rheumatic joints. Very old animals get frightened — primitive instincts come to the fore — "I'm weak and frail, can't fight or run away". A sleeping box with a ceiling helps. A large cardboard box on its side, can make a grandfather cat feel secure.

EXTRA meals help, not more food, just more often. Three or four "high spots" daily and more time to absorb nourishment for a digestive system that is slowing down. Getting out of bed to feed or stroll outdoors avoids that stiffening which happens after a long lie down.

Old dogs need walks. Exercise provides a high spot, a chance to empty an unreliable bladder. Well-trained dogs are upset if accidents occur.

Grooming is extra-important in old age — especially in cats and long-haired dogs because it is too much trouble to keep themselves clean. The coat gets matted, tangled and perhaps flea-ridden. Use a comb, even if the dog or cat objects. After they've endured combing, and look clean and tidy again, pride is restored and they feel more comfortable.

If your dog or cat drinks more water than usual, if overnight puddles appear, if a cough starts, or feeding becomes difficult, visit the vet. While you're there see if the nails need cutting — shorter walks mean less wear — or the teeth need descaling. And if any funny lumps appear, find out what they are. Don't avoid asking if it is malignant. Most aren't. Nothing will make a pet live for ever, but little attentions can make life enjoyable to the end.

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RUTH GLEDHILL on the ordination of Anglicans into the Catholic Church

Preaching to the converted

WHO WERE all these people robed in white, and where did they come from? The Book of the Apocalypse, or Revelation told us: "They are those who have passed through the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb." Seated in fron of us but soon to prostrate themselves before the throne on the sanctuary steps, there were indeed ten men aged from 31 to 82, all robed in white. Cardinal Basil Hume, on the throne and dressed in white robes, was about to ordain them as priests in the Roman Catholic church.

This was no ordinary ordination. These men had once been priests, vicars, in the Church of England. Four of them were married, some with children. In the belief that their mother church did not possess the authority it claimed when its governing body, the General Synod, voted to ordain women priests, they had taken the difficult decision to convert to Catholicism. Westminster cathedral was packed, with standing room only, with the priests' families and their new and old congregations welcoming them to their new church.

Mgr Thomas Egan, the Vicar General of the diocese, called the candidates forward and presented them to Cardinal Hume, asking him to ordain them in the name of the "holy mother Church". "Do you judge them to be worthy?" asked the Cardinal. "After inquiry among the people of Christ and upon recommendation of those concerned with their training, I testify that they have been found worthy," Mgr Egan said.

The ten men had enjoyed a fast track to ordination, thanks in part to their previous service in the Anglican church. The situation here is delicate, because 100 years ago the Pope decreed that Anglican orders were "null and void", and officially that is still the view. However, the present Pope, John Paul II, has granted a special dispensation to allow the Anglicans to be ordained, even where they are married, and despite the Catholic Church's celibacy rule.

Cardinal Basil Hume at Westminster

Cardinal Hume read a statement from Rome: "The Holy Catholic Church recognises that not a few of the sacred actions of the Christian religion as carried out in communities separated from her can truly engender a life of grace and can rightly be described as providing access to the community of salvation," he said. He thanked God for their years of faithful ministry in the Anglican church, "whose fruitfulness for salvation has been derived from the very fullness of grace and truth entrusted to the Catholic Church."

The Cardinal then examined the candidates. They were required to be conscientious fellow workers with the bishops in caring for the Lord's flock, to celebrate faithfully the mysteries of Christ, to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely and to consecrate their lives to God for the salvation of his people. This was All Saints Day, and the cantor led us in the evocative Litany of the Saints, before the Cardinal prayed for God to "pour out upon these servants of yours the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the grace and power of the priesthood".

Those about to be ordained, who had been prostrate, then stood while, in silence, the Cardinal laid his hands on the head of each one, and all the priests present did the same. They were invested with their stoles and chasubles while we all sang *Veni, creator Spiritus.*

These ordinations, on the 50th anniversary of the Pope's ordination, brought the number of former Anglicans ordained in Westminster to 27, with more due to be ordained next year. More than 300 Anglican clergy have resigned from the Church of England over the ordination of women priests.

● Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Precious Blood, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QJ (0171-798 9055).

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ARCHBISHOP: Cardinal Basil Hume

SERMON: The desire for full communion between the Catholic church and other Christian bodies. ★★★★

ARCHITECTURE: Byzantine structure. Magnificent interior with the dominant bare red brick. ★★★★★

MUSIC: As always, the choir and organist at this cathedral excelled. ★★★★

LITURGY: From the English translation of the Roman missal. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Profoundly moving. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea and a superb buffet lunch. ★★★★

صكنا من الاجل

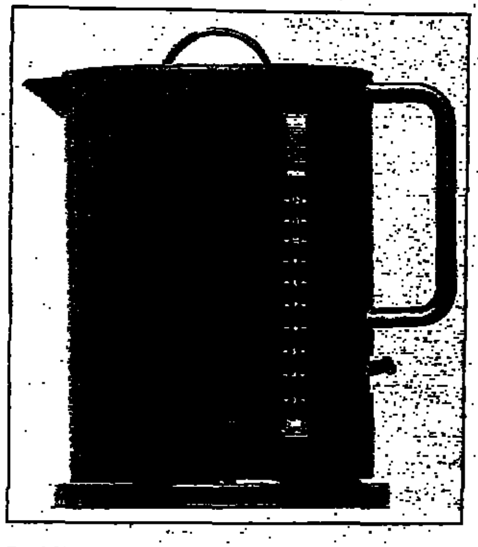
TONY WHITE

Big wide bottoms but they're still the latest supermodels

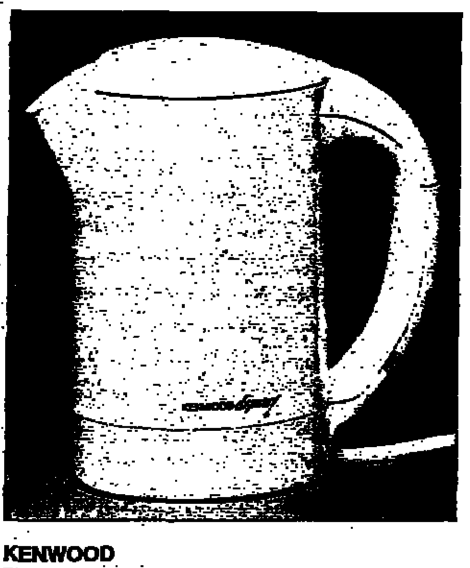
Designers have taken the bright and beautiful approach to help kettles shake off their cosy image. **SUDI PIGOTT** looks at some of the best buys

TO WHISTLE or not to whistle is the hot question in the kitchen. The new steam kettles are available not only in kitchen co-ordinated colours, but in provocative shapes and ultra-modern materials, and may even have a designer label — Philippe Starck's radical design for *Hot Bertaa* couldn't be further removed from the kettle's former cosy image. Gleaming, polished steel kettles are still in greatest demand, reflecting the popularity of high-tech, industrial-look cookers. And hob-top kettles are back, complete with nostalgic whistling lids. The idea of a tea-kettle first came from China, but the covered and spouted kettle that we know was developed in the early 1800s, coinciding with the introduction of the afternoon tea ritual. Tea-tasters generally favour kettles that have wide, flat bottoms so that they bring the water to the boil as quickly as possible to help to make the definitive pot of tea.

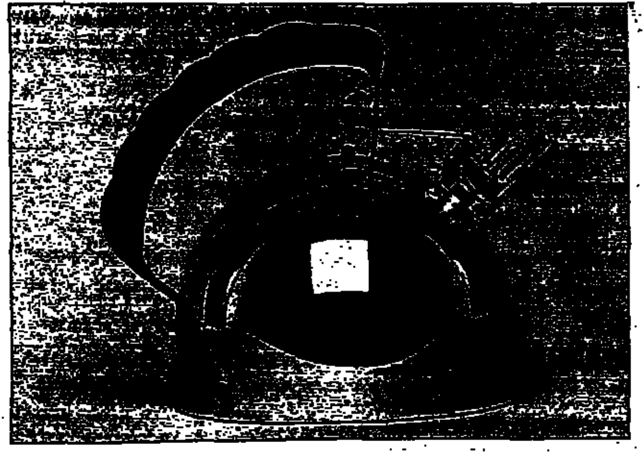
PHILIPPE STARCK
Hot Bertaa kettle in cast aluminium with grey silicon resin finish, £113, from the Algerian Coffee Shop, 52 Old Compton Street, London W1 (0171-437 2480)



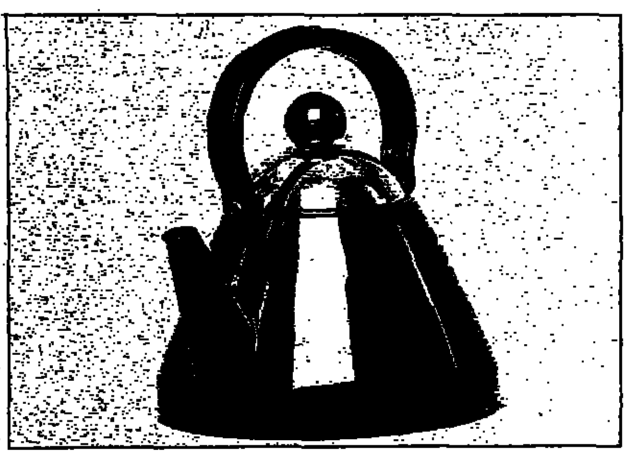
BODUM
Ibis cordless jug kettle with filter for limescale and safety locking lid (£26) in nine colours, from Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666) and Bodum (01451 810460)



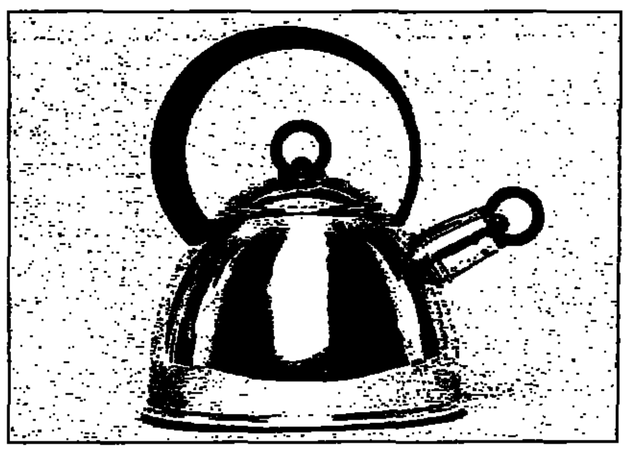
KENWOOD
Plastic, automatic Discovery travel jug kettle (two-cup/0.75 litre) with boil-dry protection device (£14.75) from John Lewis stores nationwide (0171-629 7711)



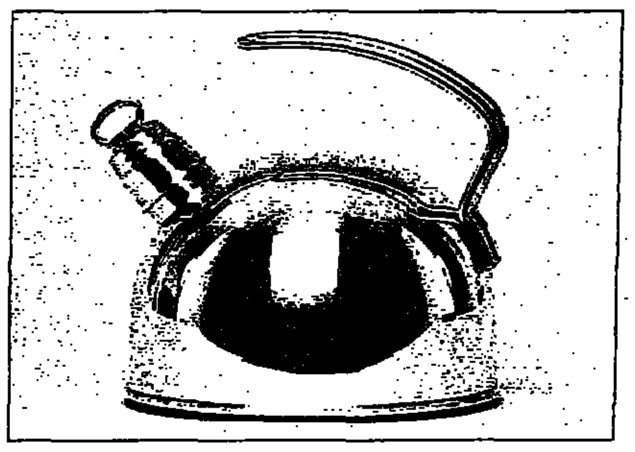
ALESSI
Classic steel kettle with "afro-curve" handle. Three-litre capacity (£140); two-litre capacity (£119) from Oggetti (0171-584 9808)



RJ's HOME SHOPS
Conical enamel kettle suitable for Agas (£23.95) from RJ's Home Shops (0171-637 7474) and Hogarth and Dwyer (01249 449149)



ARGOS
Whistling, traditional-shaped stainless steel hob kettle (£9.99) from Argos branches nationwide (01908 600161)

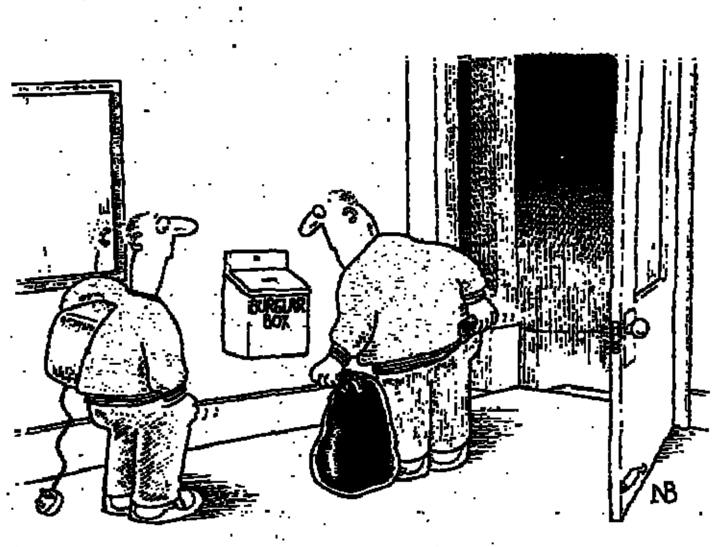


BRABANTIA
"Christmas pud" shaped stainless steel kettle (£26.95) from the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)

Like a thief in the night

PERSONAL LIFE

BY ROSE CHARLTON



In the same way that the little old lady in James Thurber used to leave her belongings in a pile outside the door, with a note saying, "Dear burglar, please take these and do not use your chloroform, as *this is all I have*", I spend a a lot of time brooding about burglars.

Lying in bed listening to the sinister cadenza of squeaks and moans that is part of the nightly repertoire of a house jerry-built by early 19th-century navvies, I tell myself that worrying about people coming and committing outrages on my property and person is a perfectly reasonable thing to do, especially if, like me, you live alone with a four-year-old in a reasonably dodgy part of southeast London.

Shortly after moving in, I went through the motions of the concerned and responsible householder, fitting window locks to the elegant sashes (themselves of a lacelike fragility) and installing a front door of brutish solidity, bristling with multiple deadlocks. Three years have passed without incident, though *I am* always faintly amazed, on returning home after the briefest journey, to find the place intact.

Pendant to my anxiety about villains breaking in, is my fear of being shut out. This *probably* has its origins in a memorable Christmas day a couple of years ago, when our festive visit to my sister and brother-in-law was enlivened by their locking themselves out of their magnificent Kensington flat, incarcerating in the process their two highly sensitive cats, together with a large number of gaily burning candles.

In the end they had to call the fire brigade to break their nice stout door down. It took the gallant fellows, once they'd stopped laughing, about 30 seconds, using a handy implement called a wrecker bar. They turned down my sister's *offer* of mince pies. Said they'd been doing this all day and couldn't manage another morsel, thanks all the same. I always wonder if burglars know about wrecker bars.

Well, anyway, there we were, my son and I, one day last month, taking advantage of the last bit of sunshine this year to eat our Marmite sandwiches in the front garden, which had burst out in a rash of late-blooming *Gloire de Dijon*. Keen to capture the scent of the Last Rose of Summer, I flung open the windows and doors, careful, as always, to put the front door on the latch. Afternoon turned to evening; Alexander fell asleep after his usual allowance of bellicose 19th-century verse ("The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel's dead . . ."). Night fell. I wandered around relocking windows and bolting the fearsome grilles that cover the back door, and went to bed, to be woken *some time later*, in the pitch dark, by the sound of a foot on the stair.

This, in itself, was not especially creepy. Alexander is impatient with my slugabed habits and is frequently to be *heard* making his way downstairs, on private business, in the hours around dawn. Usually, however, he announces his intentions in a sepulchral voice outside my door.

This time, it occurred to me, the step seemed strangely heavy for a four-year-old. And what was that curious dragging *noise*? Furthermore surely *the penetrating smell of stale* tobacco wafting under the bedroom door could have nothing to do with my dear little son? In *horrid slow motion* it struck me that, at last, the much-dreaded burglars had arrived. And moreover, that no breaking and entering had been necessary. I had, by leaving the front door on the latch, in effect invited them in to my lovely home. Oooh-*er*.

Frankly, my intensive study of burglar psychology, and whether they were likely to be deceived by my elaborate system of time-switches on the lights, hadn't extended as far as interviewing one in my nightie on the stairs.

I lay very still in the dark and listened as the footsteps and the dragging noise rose to the landing, paused, and descended again. Accompanied by the sounds of, it struck me, increasingly discontented pacing around downstairs, I put on a pair of knickers and, thus fortified, did a certain amount of stamping about, in the hope that this might encourage whoever it was to push off. This, I was relieved to observe from the landing window, they did, carrying my telly and video, swathed in black binbags, at a slow march down the garden path, like Squirrel Nutkin and Twinkleberry bearing their little girts of *honey* and *minnows* to Old Brown. A panicky glance around the premises revealed, a shade insultingly I thought, that absolutely nothing else had been touched.

The Fuzz rang me the next morning, interrupting Alexander's bitter reproaches for allowing him to sleep through all the excitement, to announce that they'd intercepted A Suspect, *strolling up the hill with a telly* in tow. Oh goody, said I, if it's mine ask him what he's done with the remote control, would you? Unamused, they remarked that I was a Very Silly Girl, with which I *could hardly disagree. Though* on reflection, most of my sympathy is with the burglars — that lovely open door, beckoning them in, and next to nothing inside worth carrying off.

INSPIRATIONS: Cool, sexy and tactile, the soda siphon is newly chic

How to make life a gas

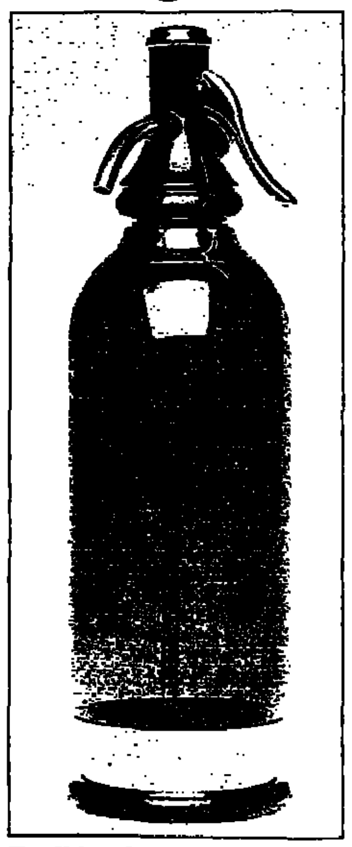
SODA SIPHONS seem to be a *fin de siècle* fashion. Invented in the early *1870s, they hit the* headlines when Oscar Wilde was wooing Bosie over hock and seltzer at the Café Royal a couple of decades later — the seltzer probably emanating from a siphon of etched glass or wire mesh on their table.

The siphon's second rise to popularity was in the cocktail-swilling 1920s when the only new design in its century-long life appeared. Instead of the straight-*sided siphon — in glass, wire* mesh or metal — the stylish double sphere, like a Cona coffee percolator, became the thing. And this design is still the most expensive and sought after today.

But why have siphons come back into vogue? Probably because fashions in drinking are changing again. Back has come the diluted hock and seltzer (we call it spritzer) and, in the puritan 1990s (at any rate as far as alcohol is concerned), back has come the smart, weak drink very different from the 1920s when gin and brandy were diluted with liqueurs and vermouth. Divertimenti, John Lewis and the *Conran shop all stock traditional*, straight-sided shaped soda siphons in glass.

Divertimenti's lightweight soda siphon in blue glass (£49.95) uses tap water and a soda cartridge: the Conran Shop's glass siphon, protected by wire mesh, not only comes in the traditional shape (£52.50) but also a sphere shape (£59), which, the Conran Shop says, is selling *better at the* moment. But customers like them both because they are tactile and are a nice weight. And John Lewis stocks a plain black clear bottle siphon (£29.75) and a chrome net bottle *siphon* (£35).

Alan Blakeman, the editor of the *British Bottle Review*, who also runs bottle auctions at Elsecar, near Barnsley, says the rise of the soda siphon coincided with the rise in smart foreign drinks. "In the early 19th century, the rich drank wine and the poor drank gin. By the late 19th century, with the rise of the railways and international travel, whisky, brandy and even drinks from as far afield as Mexico were found in bars and hotels. And soda came with them."



Traditional straight-sided blue glass soda siphon from Divertimenti

The siphon worked on the same principle as the 1960s make-your-own soda but, instead of the owner putting a slug of carbonated fizz into the water via a capsule, the siphon was refilled at the factory. So, unless someone starts a new soda factory, most antique versions are for decoration only.

But old or repro siphons are extremely decorative. Victorian ones come in blue, amber, green and, *occasionally, pink. Pink was* the height of luxury since the colour was achieved by throwing gold dust into the glass mixture when it was molten. Even these, however, fetch only between £50 and £70 at auction or about double that in antique shops. Double spheres with wire mesh work out about the same.

Plain glass siphons dating from 1890 to 1915 are virtually two a penny, selling at between £2 and £3 each — but beware of fakes. Sharp dealers use modern resins to coat the plain glass siphons in more expensive colours. You can check for authenticity by touching the glass with your lips — the most sensitive part of the body — to make sure the glass is adequately cold.

Metallic versions from the 1960s are smart but still cheap — at £1 or less — because collectors are not interested, says Blakeman. Pick them up at car boot sales and flea markets in brilliant red or silver.

LESLIE GEDDES-BROWN

- ● Alan Blakeman publishes his quarterly magazine, the *British Bottle Review*, from BBR, Elsecar Heritage Centre, Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S74 8HJ. (01226 745156) and his next auction is on November 23.
- ● The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401), John Lewis branches (0171-629 7711) and Divertimenti, 139 Fulham Rd, SW3 (0171-581 [illegible]

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A blow-out in the Windy City and a Boston tea party

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THE TIMES Travel

Pizza Hut and pop music leave their mark on Warsaw

Page 22

Stepping stones in the Indian Ocean

The charming Comoros islands have so far escaped a tourist invasion, as **JOHN CARTER** finds

You would have to travel a long way to meet a man on the way to his second marriage in the company of his first wife — to whom he was still wed.

But we had travelled a long way, so our encounter with the wedding procession on the island of Grande Comore was really no big deal. After all, polygamy is commonplace on the islands of the Federal and Islamic Republic set, like stepping stones, in the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Mozambique.

So there we were, in the village of Vanamboini, watching the procession of men going from the groom's home to the house of his new bride. Our guide, an all-round "Mr Fix-it" known as Papa Claude, had brought us there specifically for the wedding and was explaining the protocol. I understood about the gifts for the bride being carried aloft on silver trays, and the display of gold jewellery that was part of the pre-nuptial deal. I even understood that the bride's parents had, according to custom, built the house in which she waited to receive her husband and in which both would live.

What puzzled me, however, was the identity of the solemn-faced lady marching at the groom's side, sharing the shelter of the same large umbrella.

"She," explained Papa Claude, "is his sister."

At the time, I believed him. But having been on Grande Comore only a couple of days, I was prepared to believe almost anything about these "Islands of the Moon", as the Arabs called them when they first brought their trading dhows south of the Equator. Others, later, dubbed them "The Perfumed Islands".

Although it is a travel writing cliché, Grande Comore is unspoilt, just as the Seychelles were 25 years ago. I would give it about five, maybe ten, years before the tourist rot sets in. We had travelled from Britain via Dubai — a journey of about 17 hours — and we stayed at the Galawa Beach Hotel, which some believe is the only hotel on the island. There are others, but you are unlikely to see them in the travel companies' brochures.

The Galawa Beach Hotel is at Mitsamiouli on Grande Comore, about a 40-minute drive from the airport, and stands on a series of good beaches. Its buildings are just two storeys high, stretching away from the central area where reception, restaurant, bars, swimming pool and shops are located. All its 182 rooms are air-conditioned with views through the palms to the sands and the sea.

A slight element of Gallic anarchy happily pervades the hotel. I have rarely encountered a place where every guest seemed so obviously to be having a good time. The manager's influence has produced a touch of Club Med, and inspired his team of local and imported staff to maintain the party spirit.

The chef is from Mauritius, the professional musicians and singers from Madagascar, and the enthusiastic show dancers are local gardeners (and the hotel's English public relations–lady) during the day. The entertainment is all the more enjoyable for not being slick and trouble-free, with dancing under the stars and "theme" evenings.

People go to the Comoros for the water sports, or so the experts tell me. The Galawa Beach has a large water sports dive centre, where sailing dinghies and catamarans are provided free, as are windsurfers, canoes, and waterskiing and snorkelling equipment. You pay for scuba diving, game fishing, parasailing and cruises in a 38ft ocean-going catamaran.

At the water sports centre, in a tank of preservative, is a large female coelacanth — the fish about which the "living fossil" stories are written. The species was assumed to have become extinct 70 million years ago, but a specimen was washed up on a South African beach in 1938, and a second caught off the Cocmorian island of Anjouan in 1952.

None has survived, but a local story — impossible to verify during my visit — has it that a team of Japanese scientists believe they have the technology to keep a coelacanth alive and are to be seen from time to time in dedicated pursuit of "Old Four Legs". The Galawa Beach specimen was caught offshore near Grande Comore's airport in 1995.

The Comoros are volcanic islands, with Mount Khartala, on Grande Comore, still active. Naturally it is on the sightseeing schedule, but you need to be fit to climb to its crater. You spend a night in a tent up there, and should be equipped for the Alps rather than the tropics. You also need to bear in mind that the volcano last erupted in 1976 and could blow again at any time.

The sightseeing tours also take you to the rainforest, which is more like a rain wood, to the island's capital, Moroni, and around the Salimani Plain, an area of spice and perfume plantations. The main export, and the reason these became known as "The Perfumed Islands", is derived from the flower of the ylang-ylang trees. When picked, they smell like cheap bath soap, but after a ton of petals has been distilled into 20 litres of liquid, the smell is more like glue — appropriate, as the liquid is what makes perfume stick to your skin.

Any place that has to rely on ylang-ylang and vanilla exports deserves a decent break, and the Comorians have decided that tourism is going to be it.

The Galawa Beach is part of the Sun International chain, the creation of Sol Kerzner, the flamboyant South African, and now South Africans make up the bulk of its guests. Johannesburg is, after all, only three hours away. Sun International has plans for development although, from what I could gather, a controversial project to build on the island of Moheli, the smallest of the Comoros, has been shelved in the face of ferocious opposition from environmentalists.

There is alleged to be an inter-island air service, but when we were there the forlorn aircraft (indeed, the only aircraft) of Air Comore's fleet — a Fokker F27 — remained parked at the edge of the airport "because of something technical going wrong", according to Christian Antoine, the hotel manager. Two Soviet-built planes belonging to a Bulgarian charter airline that I had never heard of were spotted rumbling around the Comorian skies, but the thought of travelling in them was unappealing.

It is tempting to delve into the recent history of these islands, with their coups and counter-coups and invasion by French mercenaries, but all I would say is that, despite everything, the Comorians have managed to come up smiling. They are blessed with a delightful homeland, for all the volcanic uncertainty of Mount Khartala, and are genuinely pleasant to any strangers who happen to pass their way.

This may be because of what happened to a bunch of villagers who did not extend hospitality to a passing stranger. According to legend, the Prophet Muhammad himself came to an island village and was turned away by all except an old lady who gave him water. He told her to take her family up into the hills, and the offending village was then swallowed up by the sea. Lac Sale on the northeast corner of the island's coast is the location, and visitors are assured that the village still lies beneath its waters.

We went there, and to other photogenic locations, on the day before that wedding at Vanamboini, though it is that particular ceremony which remains strongest in my mind.

There is the memory of the village elders, in their best black and gold robes and koffia caps, walking gravely along the main road, each carrying an ornately carved walking stick. There is the sound of the women of the bride's family, chanting and singing in the recesses of the house as the groom's gifts were handed out.

Small children, wide-eyed at the solemnity of it all, watched from doorways, collapsing into fits of giggles when the grown-up solemnity became pomposity. There were long speeches, just as there are at weddings all over the world, though the presence of a British television crew probably raised the tone of the speeches (and the pomposity) to a higher level than usual.

Afterwards, walking back to our minibus, I was stopped by the grave-faced lady who had been walking beside the groom. In halting French, she asked if we would be on the island in a few weeks' time — she wrote the exact date in my notebook — to observe more ceremony. Unfortunately, we would not. I asked her what ceremony her brother would be performing.

"He is not my brother. He is my husband," she replied. "I am now senior wife."

Papa Claude, anxious not to embarrass his monogamous visitors, had chosen to tell a white lie. Lost for words, I asked her again what the ceremony would be.

"A wedding," she replied. "He is taking a third wife."

I was, sadly, going back to Britain and, though I do not expect you to believe it, on the day of the third wedding I was going to St Ives.

IMPACT

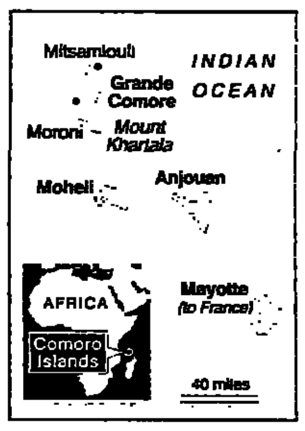
Herd instinct: local goats enjoy the beaches of Moheli, the smallest of the Comoros islands, which as yet is undeveloped for tourists

FACT FILE

- John Carter flew via *Dubai* with Emirates (0171-808 0808) which operates Wednesday and Friday flights. Air France (0181-750 4066) flies from Paris on Wednesdays. Emirates has a return economy fare of £1,799. But few flight-only tickets are sold as it is much cheaper to buy a package holiday, even if you do not use the accommodation.

- Le Galawa Beach Hotel, PO Box 1027, Moroni, Grande Comore, Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros (00 269 7881 18/9). Standard room per person per night, half-board, double occupancy, is £106. Standard single room per night, half-board, is £143.

The exchange rate is 629 Comorian francs to £1.



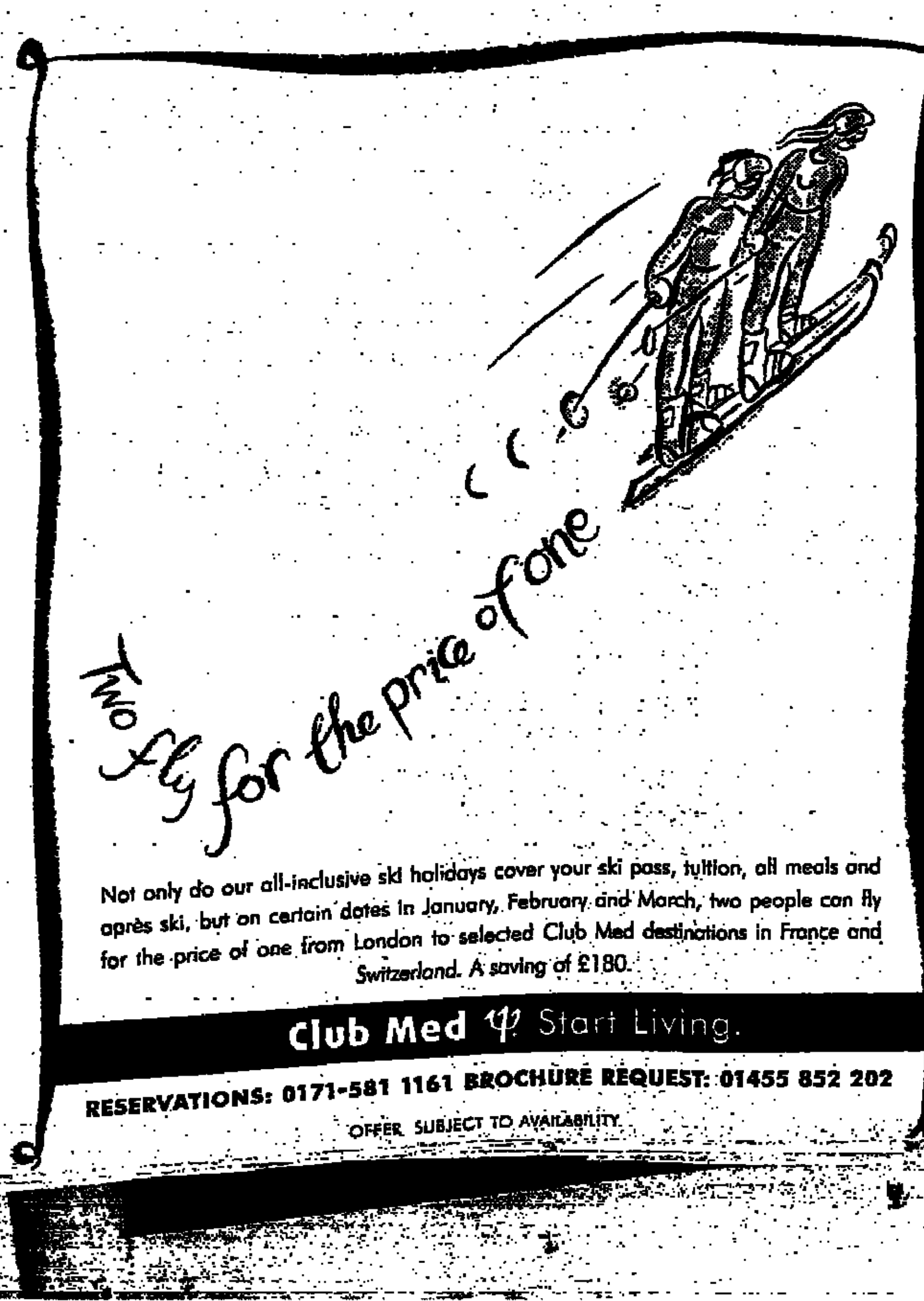
- Kuoni, Kuoni House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ (01306 743000) in its new brochure offers week-long holidays including return flights with Emirates and half-board accommodation at Le Galawa Beach Hotel for £998 to £1,298. Extra nights cost £65 each.

- Sunset Travel, 4 Abbeville Mews, 88 Clapham Park Road, London SW4 7BX (0171-498 9922) offers seven-night holidays to Le Galawa. Until the end of November, these cost £1,042 using Air France or £1,060 on Emirates. In both cases, extra nights cost £62.

- The best time to visit is from May to October. It is hot and humid between November and April.

- Tourist information in Britain is available from: Sun International, Badgemore House, Gravel Hill, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 4NR (01491 411222).

- Reading: Sarah Anderson of the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa: Including Madagascar* by T. Haltenorth (HarperCollins, £14.99, ISBN 0 002 19778 2). *Historical Dictionary of the Comoros Islands* by Martin Ottenheimer (Scarecrow Press, £22.50, ISBN 0 810 82819 7). *Madagascar and Comoros Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £9.95, ISBN 0 86442 196 6).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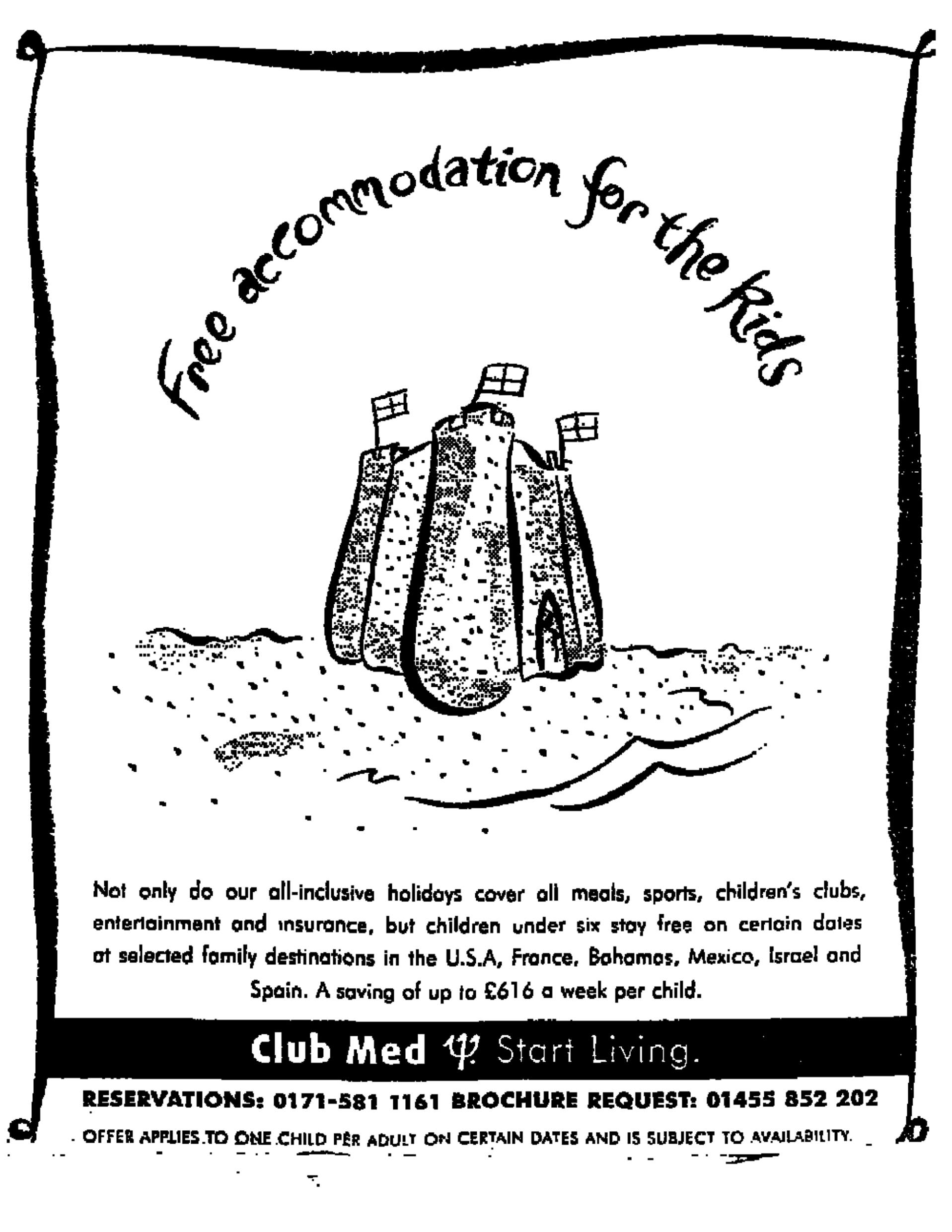
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PICTURES

Monumental cityscape: Chicago not only boasts towering granite and glass skyscrapers but also a sublime symphony orchestra and some magnificent art collections

Blow-out in the Windy City

Chicago, so the locals claim, is known as the Windy City because of its political rather than its meteorological climate. I find this hard to believe. Wind-chill factor is the statistic on everybody's lips and -2C on the ground is often accompanied by a wind of -30C blasting across the plains of the Midwest.

On one crisp morning I made the cardinal error of stepping outside with damp hair. Within ten seconds it froze to the texture of crispy seaweed. I huddled into the back of a cab, wondering why anyone would build a village, let alone a city, in such an inclement locale. Craning my neck, I tried to take in the monumental cityscape. It was like looking at the feet of a dinosaur. The city architecture must, apparently, be viewed from above to be fully appreciated. Accordingly I went to the top of the Sears Tower, the world's tallest building.

Viewed from the 100th floor, the granite and glass skyscrapers were dwarfed on the streets below, only Lake Michigan retaining its enormity. But the Windy City is not, in the words of the song, mighty pretty. You would not come here to admire the scenery. Thankfully, the shopping, food and cultural life are terrific. On the Magnificent Mile (North Michigan Avenue) stand department stores such as Bloomingdale's and the grandiose Nieman Marcus, whose Christmas catalogue once included his'n'her helicopters. And Marshall Field's on State Street is a Chicago institution.

Also fun is Woodfield Mall which provides "suburban sizzle" to the west of the city. Here the shops range from de luxe to déclassé, from handmade Italian shoes to raunchy underwear. I lunched from the "comfort food" menu in the Rainforest Restaurant beneath a row of life-size plastic elephants who periodically hoot and waggle their ears.

The food was an unexpected delight. After five days I gained at least half a stone, straining the buttons of my jeans, and understood why Oprah Winfrey (whose empire is based in Chicago) has a weight problem.

The greatest thing about Chicago, though, is the culture. The neo-classical Chicago Art Gallery has a world-class collection of Impressionist art as well as 20th-century exhibitions. The basement is dominated by Chagall's *American Windows*, a huge, turquoise stained-glass window made by the artist at the age of 90. The upstairs houses Grant Wood's *American Gothic*.

Nearby stands Orchestra Hall. A classical music refusenik, I thought I could not possibly appreciate the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pierre Boulez, in its rendering of Dukas, Debussy and Varese. But the beauty of the concert hall and the music touched even my heathen heart. During the interval I bought chocolates from the man behind the bar.

"Are you a fan?" I asked, gesturing towards the auditorium. "I prefer techno," he said and told me which nightclubs to go to and of his past career as a drag artiste and his skills at giving an instant face-lift with a piece of knotted string. "I'm saving up to have my eyes done," he confided. "They do it with lasers, only $3,000."

Alas, I never made it to any nightclub. "I. D.?" they asked, as I stood under a moustachioed Mona Lisa mural outside one club. What? Surely I looked over 21? However, as my passport was stowed away in the hotel safety deposit box, there was no techno for me that night.

I went instead to a blues bar, Kingston Mines. Inside the service was surly and the decor grotty. White men in ski jumpers listened to the band, Billy Branch and the Sons of Blues, who were black men in leather trousers. Against all the odds the atmosphere was vibrant.

Best of all Chicago's nocturnal entertainments was a comedy club, The Second City. This intimate nightspot on North Wells Street has been going for 33 years, and many comedians started here. I saw a Footlights review which made me laugh until I fell off my seat.

The comic invective was aimed at the mediocrity of America itself: the fast food restaurants, the high school proms, the *Blockbuster* video. For the first time, the citizens of the USA became human in my eyes. Even the name of the club, The Second City, is a wry allusion to the Chicagoan paranoia that outsiders will consider their home town second-rate. They have nothing to worry about.

ALICE DE SMITH

● The author was a guest of the Illinois Tourist Board and American Airlines.

CHICAGO FACT FILE

■ American Airlines Holidays (0181-577 9966) offers weekend breaks to Chicago with prices starting from £385 plus tax, which includes return flights and two nights' accommodation at the Holiday Inn City Centre. Prices are based on two people sharing a room. American Airlines flies daily nonstop to Chicago from Heathrow, Manchester and Birmingham.

■ British Airways Holidays (01293 723100) offers city breaks to Chicago. A three-night break at a three-star hotel within walking distance of the heart of Chicago and including scheduled flights costs from £435.

■ The Wright Weekend is an annual Wright festival held in Oak Park in May. Ten privately owned houses designed by Wright or his followers are open to the public by ticket at $45. There are also special tours, a concert at Unity Temple, and a street party. For details, call the Illinois Bureau of Tourism office in London on 0181-680 0122 or the Oak Park Visitors Centre direct on 001 708 848 1500. Accommodation available.

■ Tours of Oak Park, the House and Studio and Unity Temple are available nearly every day through the rest of the year, organised both locally and through the Architecture Foundation at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago (001 312 922 8687), for whom this is just one of 50 outstanding tours.

■ The Robie House, a consummate example of the Prairie style, now belongs to the University of Chicago (at 5757 Woodlawn Ave in the Hyde Park region). Free tours are given at noon.

■ Reading: *Adventures of Augie March* by Saul Bellow (Penguin, £7.99, ISBN 0 140 07272 1). *Chicago Loop* by Paul Theroux (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 140 13135 3). *Michelin Green Guide Chicago* (£8.50, ISBN 2 061 5940 1).

The man who built America

The double-decker train that carries tourists and commuters out to Oak Park, ten miles west of the Chicago loop, runs through the strata of big city sprawl. It is a journey through horizontal layers of prosperity and misery.

On the edge of the metropolis there are the first suburbs, dilapidated places which have had the stuffing kicked out of them and have lost their enterprising residents to ring towns further out. Next a green lawn zone of "porch wrapped" Victorian houses establishes itself for a moment and then loses confidence in a scruffy interlude of industrial building. But pass a freeway and suddenly the real America of Newt Gingrich opens out, meticulously manicured, stars and stripes flying luminous over the rooftops; neighbourhoods of neat, well attended churches and orderly schools. Welcome to Oak Park.

Oak Park is a suburb — but you can forget any prejudice that word stirs, any memories of Stepford Wives. Oak Park may look sleepy but it is a crucible of modern design and the place where Frank Lloyd Wright changed the face of domestic architecture. Wright's first home and studio are at the centre of Oak Park — and all around are 24 other buidlings that he completed during the first 20 years of his career, the largest living museum of Wright architecture anywhere in the world.

What is so glorious about Oak Park for the visitor who wants to know more about F.L. Wright is not the nicely understated group tours, or the personal stereo that guides you down wide avenues of splendid houses, but the vivid sense one has of what it must have been like in the dying days of the last century to push at the boundaries of public taste and see things change.

Wright built his own shingle house with $5,000 borrowed from Louis Sullivan (father of the Chicago School and the great skyscraper brain behind the rise of that city) and later added a working studio.

In the serene octagonal library, young F.L. Wright presented his designs to his clients. Sitting around the oak table with the daylight flooding in from the skylight above and the art glass windows to the sides, they must have been aware of the extraordinary talent with which they were dealing.

Many mocked Wright's designs but a small band of rich, cosmopolitan, fairly brave customers supported Wright and became the owners of his first Prairie Houses. These houses were everything that the Victorian "Psycho" houses were not. Low hipped roofs replaced the steep pitch of the past.

Wright's houses hugged the ground, their strong horizontal lines emphasised by bands of windows across the building and strong overhanging eaves making indoor-outdoor spaces that deliberately blurred the distinction between the airy inside of the house and the expanse of land around it.

Wright's Prairie Houses were for the American lifestyle and the American landscape. They were for modern, open living — little cosy box rooms, heavy drapes and a clutter of furniture and fireplaces were banished in favour of clean spaces done out in natural colours and materials.

For despite Wright's reputation as an urban and suburban architect his inspiration was Nature and elemental geometry. He told students: "The place for an architect to study construction first of all is Nature. In Nature you will find everything exemplified. Stay close to Nature. It will never fail you." Looking around Wright's home and studio now, it's difficult to remember that the design was made while Victoria was still monarch. Instinctively one knows that this is the blueprint of modern living. This is the precursor of the enduringly popular open-plan house that made a thousand sitcoms possible. The TV shows from Dick van Dyke onwards that play out their life in one huge living room are a reminder of why Wright still rates as America's greatest architect 37 years after his death.

> There is a vivid sense of pushing at the barriers of public taste

Not surprisingly, there are gaggles of Wright groupies in Oak Park. The Home and Studio are run by an impressive foundation largely made up of enthusiastic volunteers who have the Wright Life and Work off by heart. But thanks to their efforts the properties are very well run, there's a terrific bookshop and, for the home decorator, there are reproduction Wright lamps, china, candlesticks, glass and textiles.

Since at an auction a couple of years ago a single table lamp by Wright sold for over half a million dollars — one can only boggle at the possible value of the Oak Park property that carries the master's signature.

SUSAN MARLING

FAY SWEET

Frank Lloyd Wright's first home and studio in Oak Park

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... but Boston is stuffed with history — even if it has more to do with a television series

Three cheers for the Boston Strangler

"How many men does it take to change a toilet roll?" the barmaid in the Bull and Finch on Boston's Beacon Street asks loudly. She is wearing a *Cheers* T-shirt and khaki shorts and is attractive if not exactly Shelley Long. She looks around the bar and beams. "No one knows because it's never been done," she giggles, and a tourist takes her photograph.

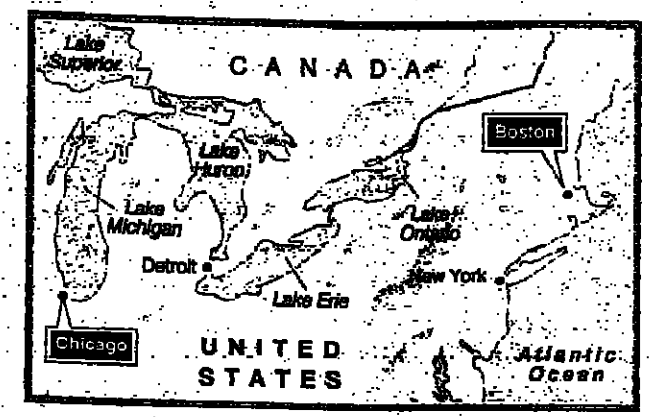
We are in Boston's foremost tourist attraction, the bar upon which the TV series *Cheers* was based and the exterior of which was seen during the opening titles every week. That the inspiration for a fictional TV sit-com should have more people queuing down the street than the sites of the Boston Tea Party or the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence to Bostonians tells us something about the modern tourist, I suppose. It may, however, be too depressing to reflect too closely upon what exactly because Boston is more stuffed with history than any city in the United States.

It is also now very easy to visit. Situated in the heart of New England, that most autumnally picturesque part of America, and only a very cheap six and a half hours flight from London (even shorter from Manchester or Glasgow), it is perfect for a sightseeing mini-break, or even a stress-free few days of cut-price shopping.

Usually when we think of American cities the vast steel and glass canyons of Manhattan or rolling freeways of Los Angeles spring to mind. But history has ensured that Boston is not like either. The oldest city in the United States, Boston began life as the centre of a British colony (the Pilgrim Fathers landed 40-odd miles down the road at Plymouth Rock) and everywhere the architecture, with its square, steepled, 18th-century churches, and early 19th-century town houses on Beacon Hill, is a reminder of a colonial and not-very-distant past.

Inevitably there are now a cluster of high-rise towers (the view from the 42nd floor of the Prudential Building is a geography lesson in itself), and the suburbs stretch for miles around Massachusetts Bay. But Boston itself is a very small place, a walking city, as they say, two thirds built on land reclaimed from the sea in the 19th century.

With limited time a trolley bus sightseeing tour is probably the best way of finding one's bearings, but beware. I took the Old Town Trolley Tour, a 100-minute bus ride for £12 past Paul Revere's House, the 200-year-old *USS Constitution*, the State House, the site of the Boston Tea Party and all kinds of nooks and crannies to do with the American Revolution. Historically it should have been fascinating, but I ended up feeling like the Boston Strangler and fantasising that the tour guides were my victims.



FACT FILE

- **Virgin Atlantic** (01293 747747) flies to Boston from Gatwick from £305. British Airways (0345 222111) flies from Heathrow, Glasgow and Manchester from £205.
- **Funway Holidays** (0181-466 0222) offers two nights at the Copley Square Hotel in Boston from £298 with flights or two nights at the Sheraton, Boston, for £338, including flight.
- **Funway has a** special pre-Christmas package of four nights for the price of three at the Copley Square Hotel, from £339, including flights.
- **Travel in Boston** is cheap with an 85 cent (54p) flat fare on the subway.
- **Information packs** on Boston from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism on 0171-978 5233.
- **Reading:** ***The Scarlet Letter*** by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 140 43052 0). ***The Bostonians*** by Henry James (Penguin, £2.99, ISBN 0 140 43225 6). ***Blue Guide Boston and Cambridge*** (A&C Black, £14.99, ISBN 0 713 63170 8).

The first one said he was studying to be a history teacher although I would have believed him better if he'd owned up to majoring in stand-up comedy. The second, though better, seemed to be under the impression that we were all eight year olds at a pantomime, ringing her trolley bell every time she mentioned Paul Revere, which in Boston is about every five minutes.

There are, I'm told, more informative tour guides, so ask around before you get on the bus. History is too important and Boston too interesting to be left to motormouths with microphones.

Being the education capital of America (there are many universities in the area besides Harvard), Boston is very much a young at heart, professional town, which shows in the wealth of good shopping on Newbury Street, from vast record shops at one end to the smart New York stores at the other. They're all here without the crowds of Fifth Avenue. And this being America, virtually everything is cheaper than in Britain. What surprises most, however, is the diversity of restaurants and cafés — proof that the nation of immigrants hasn't forgotten the old ways. In Faneuil Hall Marketplace (not unlike Covent Garden in London) I counted 53 restaurants, with specialities ranging from local chowder to Japanese, Mexican and even Bavarian dishes.

For more leisurely eating there is the Du Barry Restaurant Français, the oldest French restaurant in Boston, on Newbury Street in the Back Bay area. The Café Budapest specialises in Hungarian cuisine and there are Legal Seafood Oyster Bars throughout the city.

I'm not really one for museums, and the Old State House, once the British headquarters, in front of which the misnamed Boston Massacre took place, was disappointing, and surely hardly the place for a Second World War retrospective when there is so much earlier history to tell. But if you're interested in art the Venetian folly in which the Isabella Stewart Gardner collection (Rembrandt, Titian, Botticelli and Matisse) is housed is probably worth the cost of the flight alone.

I am one for trees and irony, however, and the vast elms, flaming maples and Japanese weeping willows of the Boston Public Garden impressed nearly as much as the information that the man who built the first gallows on Boston Common ended up being the first man to be hanged on them. Apparently he charged too much for his work and was summarily sentenced to death.

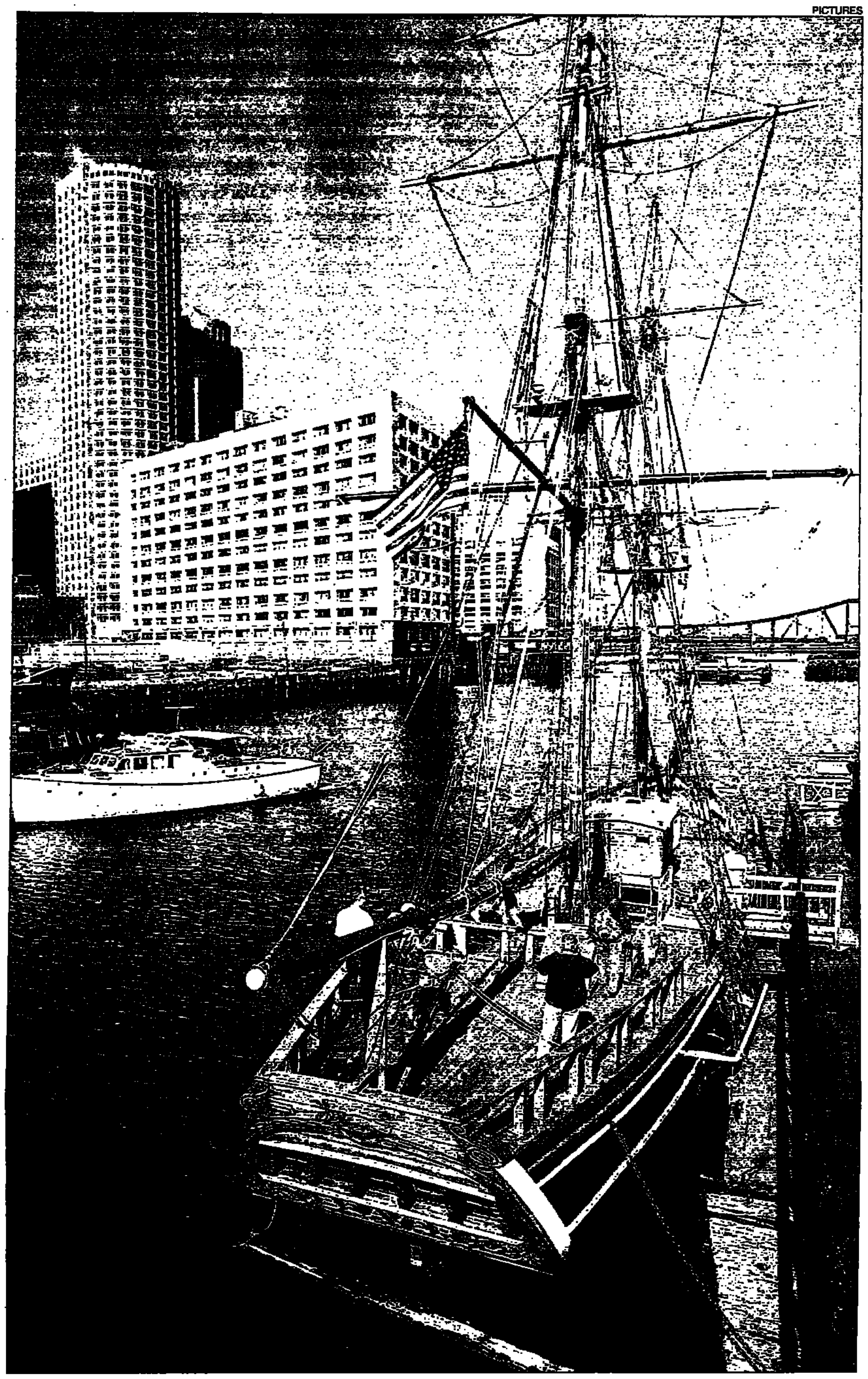
Unless you're being judicially strangled, Boston Common, just behind the old town, is a good place to observe a miracle of the modern Boston skyline. During the day the two largest skyscrapers, the John Hancock and the Prudential Building, are virtually invisible because their glass sides reflect the light all around. But as the sun goes hundreds of lighted office windows appear and the two giant obelisks become fully visible in the night sky.

And if it's night time, it's time for music so I went to the Bull and Finch again. The bar is full of noisy people. A recent cultural history quiz is held. The answers are Elvis, Chuck Berry, the Ronettes and the Crystals. I win and get a baseball cap with Cheers written on it. Don't Americans teach their children history at all?

RAY CONNOLLY

● The author was a guest of Funway Holidays and Virgin Atlantic

PICTURES



Dartmouth, on which the Boston Tea Party took place, is not as popular as the bar on which *Cheers* was based

TRAVEL TIPS

Where on earth?

WHERE are (a) Belak, (b) Nunavut, (c) Mahinga, (d) Jambi, (e) Saaremaa, (f) Lalouq and (g) Zaarour?*

They are all prospective holiday destinations peddled at the World Travel Market in London earlier this week, along with weekend breaks in Kiev, ecohotels in Oslo, and Jakarta as a cultural centre. Some are no doubt pie-in-the-sky but a few years ago, who would have dreamt of weekend breaks to Rio, that the Dominican Republic would become the new Costa Brava and that Goa would compete with Cyprus for winter visitors?

*(a) Turkish coast; (b) Canada's Arctic wilderness; (c) a Ugandan national park; (d) an island off Estonia; (e) Central Sumatra; (f) & (g) both Lebanese ski resorts.

All afloat

HOLIDAYMAKERS can follow the Rhine Festival from June 13-18 aboard *MS Austria*, which sails from Cologne to Mannheim, and stop for concerts at Cologne Cathedral, Schloss Augustusburg in Bruehl, Schloss Bruchsal, Colmar and Schloss Ludwigsburg. Martin Randall Travel (0181-742 3355) also offers an Austro Hungarian Music Festival on the Danube from August 16-23 on *MS Rousse*. Prices from £1,790 and £1,750 respectively.

Royal tent

THE privilege of living like a Maharajah is an experience offered on Western and Oriental's (0171-221 8677) first Indian tours to Rajastan, where guests stay in the Maharajah of Jodphur's tented safari camps in Jodphur and in the Great Thar Desert. The 15-day tour costs £2,595 full board.

The Wildlife & Heritage of Gujarat Tour whisks groups or individual travellers from the Rann of Kutch to see wild asses, to the Gir Forest, believed to be the only place where Asiatic lions can be seen in their natural habitat. Pottery, weaving, pilgrim centres and mediaeval palaces are also included in the two-week full-board tour costing £1,940 & £2,150 respectively.

JILL CRAWSHAW

● More tips on page 22.

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Transfer back to hotel at 01.30. Hotel checkout at 10.00 on the 1st January and transfer back to Toronto for flight departure.
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صكا من الاهل

International skiing: In the first of a three-part series, **Doug Sager** looks at holidays for those on a budget

IAN JONES

Courcheval is featured by Motours brochure, which has chalets and apartments in 23 ski resorts. The firm is offering a self-catering studio holiday for £272 for two people sharing. Prices include return crossings with Sally Line ferries

The ultimate balancing act

Price is the ultimate factor in most skiers' choice of a holiday. Starting at the bottom, this week we begin a three-part series examining budget, mid-priced and luxury holidays. The budget range has been set at under £500 a week, with luxury holidays at more than £1,000 and the mid-price range between the two.

Skiers on a budget will know that timing is everything. Before Christmas and after Easter, prices from the most upmarket tour operators can fall in last-minute price cuts to below advertised prices for even the least-favoured resorts in high season by "budget" tour operators.

Self-drive and self-catering holidays will normally cost less than half-board chalet holidays with flights and transfers, which are usually better value than hotel holidays.

With mainstream operators such as Crystal listing more than 10,000 holidays at brochure prices ranging from under £300 to well over £1,000, and with upgrade options and group discounts further fudging the bottom line, it is obvious that few tour operators willingly accept being forced into either the budget or the luxury category, preferring instead to be all things to all skiers.

The holidays quoted below are all for the peak half-term week beginning February 15. Each holiday is meant to be representative, but is in no case meant to imply that one tour operator is more or less expensive than another throughout the range of its programme.

Prices are quoted according to industry standards: per person based on double occupancy and including flights and transfers, plus seven nights' accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Balkan Holidays (0171-493 8612).
Claiming to be *the* specialist tour operator to Romania and Bulgaria, Balkan Holidays cites 30 years of experience in Eastern Europe, where most accommodation is in B&Bs or half-board hotels (often the Soviet-style, monolithic type) pensions, and A-frame chalets.
Example: Hotel Malina, Pamporovo, Bulgaria: B&B, four sharing, £318.

Panorama (01273 206531)
Not many budget tour operators have their own Internet site, but Panorama offers this electronic alternative to paper brochures, http://www.phg.co.uk showing its holidays at Killington in Vermont, as well as Livigno and Sauze d'Oulx in Italy, and three resorts in Andorra. Emphasising great value duty-free skiing and 40 years of experience, Panorama focuses on self-catering flats, small hotels and the odd chalet.
Example: Galli Apartments, Livigno: flat, six sharing, £319.

Interski (01623 456333)
Lively and all-inclusive school and group holidays by coach to the Aosta Valley in Italy include everything: hot lunches on the mountain, skipass with four hours of lessons a day, and ski equipment hire as well as evening entertainment. Operating for 13 years, Interski also caters for about 3,500 adults at its less than centrally located family-style hotels.
Example: Hotel Valdigne, Courmayeur: full board, two to four sharing, £559 for nine days.

Motours (01892 518555)
Almost all accommodation is in self-catering apartments, with occasional half-board or chalet options. The exact dimensions of each flat are carefully noted in the brochure, which lists 23 French resorts, including Courcheval and super-value Superdevoluy. Prices include return Channel crossings on Sally Ferries. Le Shuttle and other crossings are available for a small supplement.
Example: Residence de la Fôret, Flaine: self-catering studio, two sharing, £272.

Travelscene (0181-863 2787)
The company offers self-drive, self-catering holidays to 18 French resorts, with accommodation in studios and flats — the way French families do it. Prices include return crossings on the Ramsgate-Dunkirk route, with supplements for Le Shuttle or other crossing routes.
Example: Le Ruitor Apartments, Les Arcs: self-catering flat, four sharing, £306.

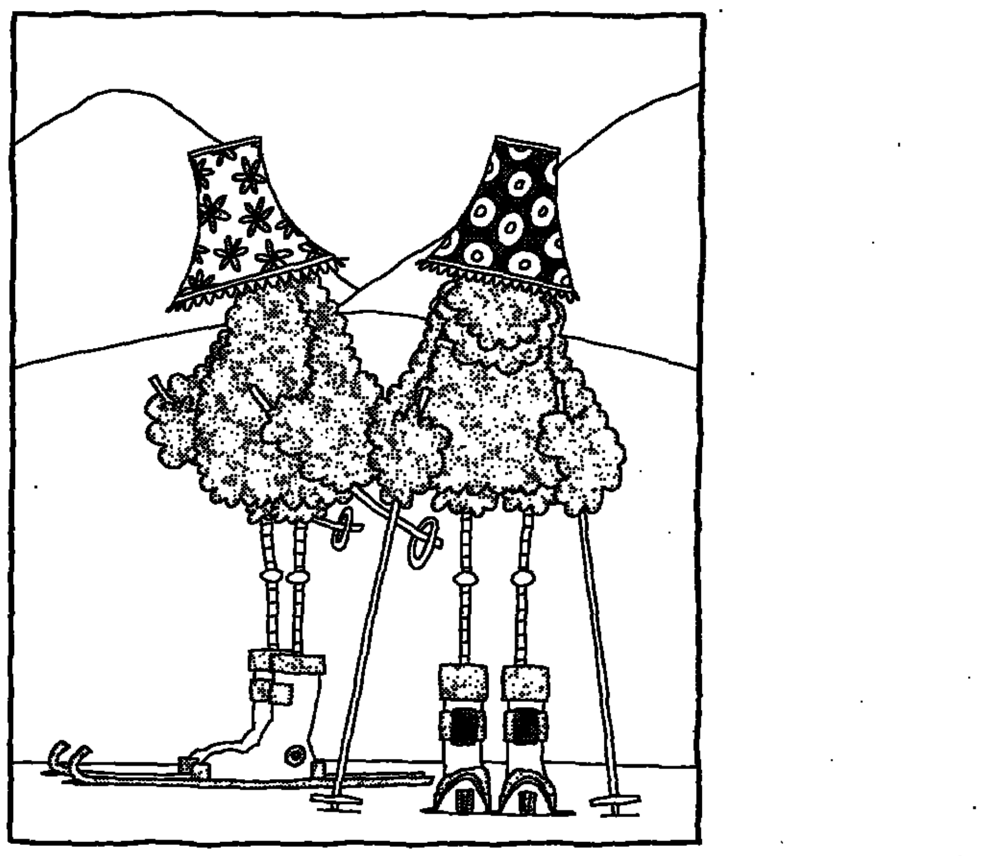
Waymark (01753 516477)
Anybody who thinks cross-country skiing is cheap, just because there is no lift pass to buy, has never looked at the brochures. Waymark, with 23 years on skinny skis, features more than 40 resorts in nine cross-country nations, including Poland and Finland. Many of these holidays are well above £500, but even in high season and in notoriously expensive Norway, you can still find half-board holidays, including all flights, at under £500.
Example: P Hallingen Chalets, Hallingen, Norway: half-board accommodation in two-bedroom flat, four sharing, £420.

Frontier Ski (0171-839 1627)
It's a struggle to find skiing under £500 in February in North America, but Frontier is a forerunner in discovering Canada's best budget hideaways. Red Mountain has phenomenal snow, although lifts and lodging at the resort are somewhat behind the times. Frontier's price includes transfer flights to Castelgar, the local airport.
Example: Hotel Uplander, Red Mountain, Canada: no meals, two sharing hotel room, six-day skipass included, £323.

Snow Bizz (01778 341455)
Families looking for free ski guides, crèche sites, doorstep skiing and the options of flying or driving to a resort uncontaminated by more than one British tour operator will find a home in Puy St Vincent in France.
Example: PSV Apartments, Puy St Vincent: half-board accommodation (only five evening meals) in large, purpose-built complex, two sharing, £479.

Ski Peak (01252 794941)
Winner on price and service among 50 tour operators surveyed last year, Ski Peak is a family-orientated company with chalets, self-catering flats and a hotel it manages itself in the hamlet of Vaujany, in France, connected by a 160-person cable car to Alpe d'Huez and only 90 minutes from Grenoble airport.
Example: La Villette Apartments, Vaujany: half-board accommodation, well-appointed flats, £499.

Stena Line (0990 747474)
Self-drive holidays to 20 French resorts, five Italian resorts and three resorts in Austria with Stena feature a wide choice of hotels and self-catering flats.
Example: Hotel Pilier d'Angle, Courmayeur, Italy: half-board accommodation, Channel ferry crossing for car and two adults plus any children under 16, £429.



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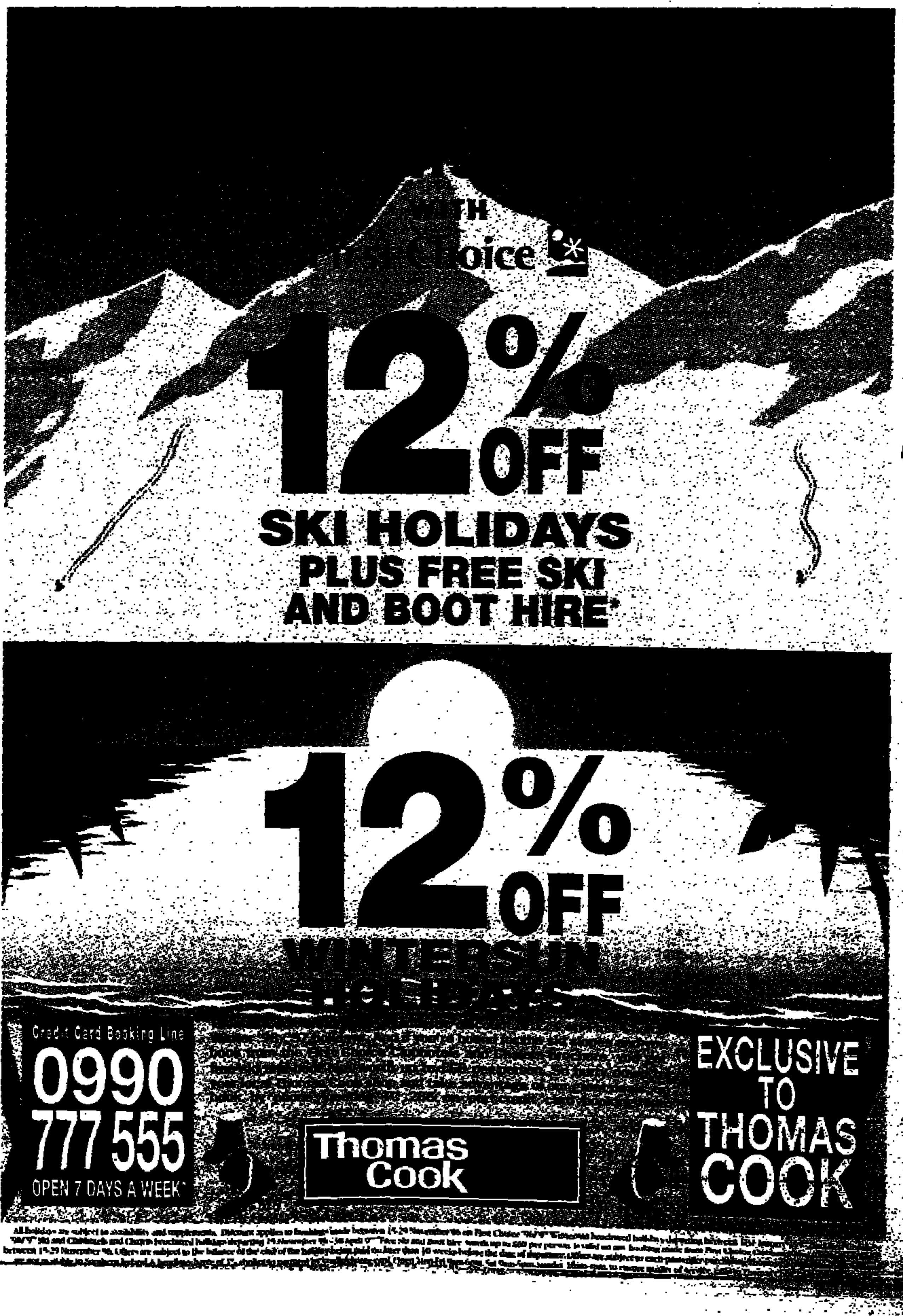

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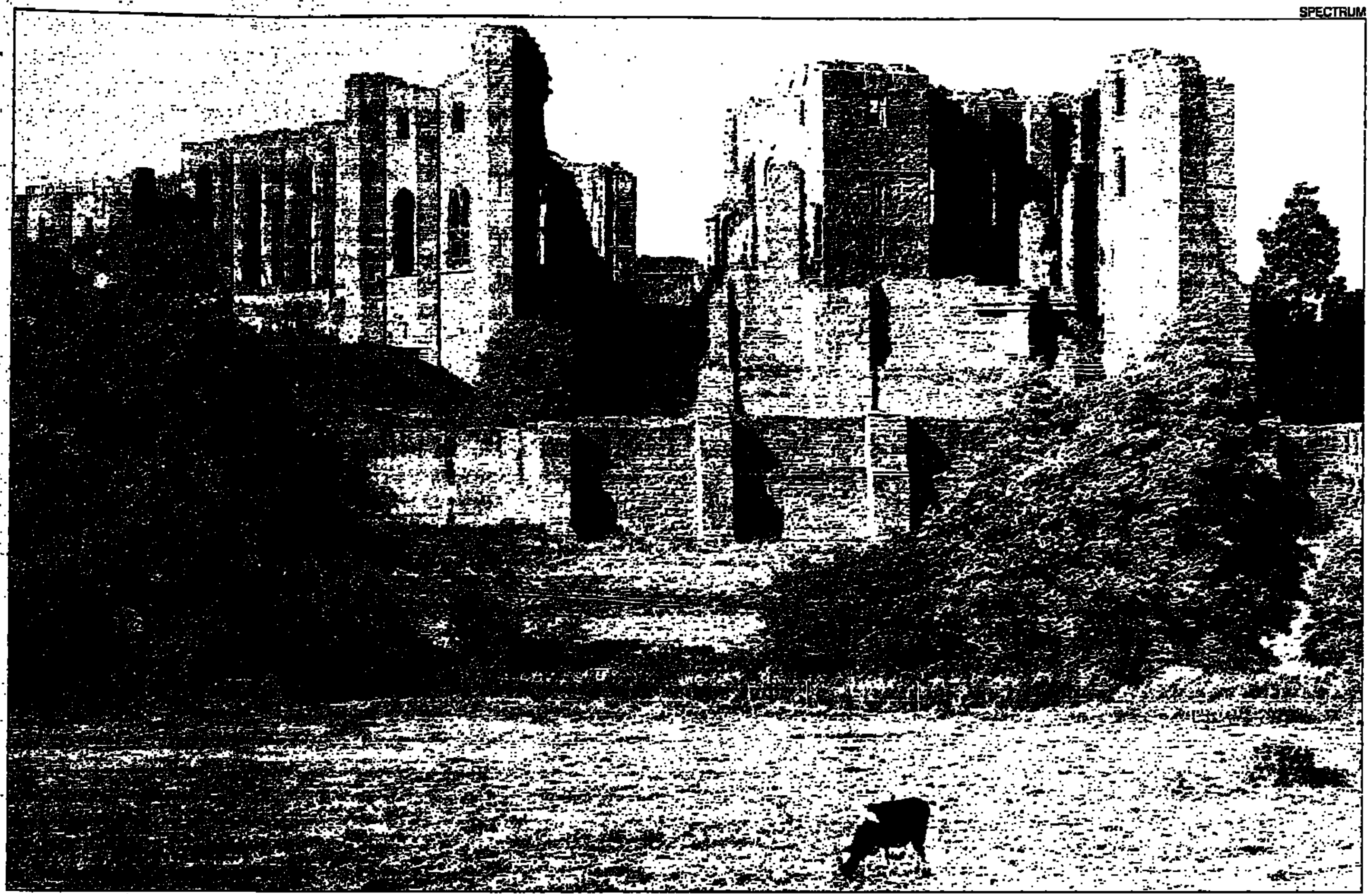
The Midlands: From medieval battlements to rolling wooded hills, via the furnaces of a dark industrial past

Bed and bawd fit for a queen



SPECTRUM

The impressive remains of Kenilworth Castle, a Roman fortress that became the home of Elizabeth I's favourite courtier, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

"You *must* see Shakespeare at Stratford," a thespian friend said, horrified that anyone could reach the age of 26 without going through this rite of passage. So I told my companion that the environs of Stratford-upon-Avon were to be our destination for a three-day, motoring break. He listened aghast to my itinerary — Warwick Castle, Kenilworth Castle and Leamington Spa — and warned that it sounded like death by history.

Our first stop was anything but stuffy. Warwick Castle, set in the middle of the beautiful university town, has stood here in some form since the time of William the Conqueror. The pristine castle is an excellent stage on which to recreate medieval times. The Tussaud's Group, owner of the castle and the waxworks museum in London, has put on a waxworks exhibition showing the preparations for one of the battles in the War of the Roses.

Although I expected it to be tacky, it is far more lively and evocative than I imagined. You could tiptoe to within nibbling distance of these 15th-century folk and not tell them apart from the staff clad in period costumes.

Because I love a good ghost story, I was impressed by the creepy voice echoing through the Ghost Tower, which is said to be stalked by the spirit of a murdered aristocrat.

The River Avon runs by the castle and a bridge connects the castle to an island, the scene of some bizarre zookeeping exploits in the 1890s. The then Countess of Warwick thought racoons, Japanese deer, Chinese geese, an elephant and an emu would make ideal pets. The emu gained notoriety for chasing a bishop around the castle grounds.

A problem with the castle is that it is a victim of its own success, attracting coachloads of visitors. This year it was given the National Heritage Award as Britain's finest family attraction. A winter visit might be less frustrating, and it might be wise to arrive just as the castle opens. Rather than jostle elbows in the castle's two restaurants and café, plump for a cream tea in one of the town's fine tearooms.

Kenilworth Castle, five miles north of Warwick, is a sober contrast to its neighbour: bare, ruined and magnificent. There are no restaurants or signposts, no exquisitely landscaped gardens, and few visitors. It is all the more romantic for it.

The Normans built the first fortress here out of earth and timber. It was rebuilt in stone in the 12th century and surrounded by a great lake, now gone.

Before doing anything else, wander around the exhibition in the stables. Kenilworth is where Elizabeth I paid the longest visit to a subject. She was the guest of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, a favourite courtier who spent £60,000 over ten years preparing the castle for her visit. The relationship between the Virgin Queen and Dudley is dissected in satisfying detail — an Elizabethan saga of sex, death and ruffed collars.

With this wonderfully sordid tale planted in your mind, climb inside the roofless towers. You can look up at the sky through the same window frames that Elizabeth once peered through. The statuesque Great Hall, open to the heavens, contains the carved fireplace of one of the grandest rooms in England. No waxwork dummies here, but you can imagine what saucy goings-on these buildings witnessed.

Several half-hour sightseeing ambles are possible from the castle, one of which will take you to the ruins of a nearby abbey on Castle Green. The church of St Nicholas, marked with bullet holes from the Civil War, stands next to the remains.

Our final stop on the third day was Royal Leamington Spa, two miles east of Warwick, to take the waters as the Victorians used to. The peaceful and pretty Jephson Gardens, near the River Leam and opposite the Pump Room, are named after the doctor who brought the restorative powers of the waters to public attention and wealth to the town. It is a faded wealth, now that people no longer flock here to seek relaxation and respite. The town's decline is mirrored in the fate of the central network of Regency houses, wide streets and graceful crescents, which are now limbs of an enormous shopping complex.

Disappointed, we drove back to Stratford for the culmination of our historical tour. Luckily *The Taming of the Shrew* turned out to be a hugely bawdy affair. That, together with the restful surroundings of the Welcombe Hotel, just outside Stratford, made our three-day jaunt a perfectly relaxing death by history.

ANJANA AHUJA

● The author was a guest of the Welcombe Hotel and Golf Course, Stratford-upon-Avon.

WARWICKSHIRE FACT FILE

■ **Warwick Castle, Warwick CV34 4QU (01926 406600). Open daily (except Dec 25) 10am-5pm (Nov-Mar), 10am-6pm (April-Oct; 7pm on August weekends). Admission £8.25, children £5.25. Concessions for OAPs and groups.**

■ **Kenilworth Castle, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1NE (01926 852078). Open daily (except Dec 24-26 and Jan 1) 10am-4pm (Oct-Mar), 10am-6pm (April-Sept). Admission £2.50, children £1.30, concs £1.90.**

■ **The Welcombe Hotel and Golf Course, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0NR (01789 295252, fax 01789 414666). Prices per night start at £110 for a single room, £150 for a double, both including breakfast. Country House Weekends available at £195 per person for two nights with breakfast and dinner. Deluxe rooms available at a £60 supplement. The weekend price includes free admission to Warwick Castle and to one of six local National Trust properties.**

Birdsong and beauty bordering Birmingham

IT IS NOT HARD to get into the countryside from Birmingham. About ten miles to the southwest of the city centre, just over the Worcestershire border, are the Clent Hills: wonderful rolling hills of more than 400 acres with fine woods, heath and farmland.

Much of the Clent Hills used to be common land, with sheep, cattle and ponies grazing on the hillsides. Not so many animals are to be seen now, but in summer the bird life is as rich as ever, with meadow pipits on the grassland, tree pipits in the wooded valleys, and all the regular summer warblers to be heard. Buzzards and ravens sometimes drift in from the Black Mountains of Wales, which can be seen over to the west on a clear day, with the long blue line of the Malvern Hills to the south.

The National Trust owns much of the land, and last year took over the management of it from Hereford and Worcester County Council. A young warden, Chris Weaver, has started replanting grass and small trees in several areas alongside the footpaths, where erosion had worn much of the grass away, and the charm of the hills just above the village of Clent (a village of pubs and restaurants) is being restored.

Higher up, clumps of Scots pine planted as romantic features in the 18th century crown the horizon, and there is a completely fake circle of old stones that was erected as a picturesque addition at the same time. Age has given them authenticity as an 18th-century folly. Beyond the circle of stones stretch miles and miles of good walking.

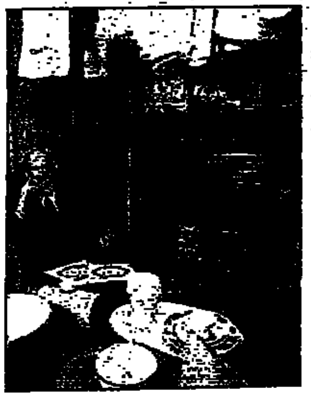
THE PEOPLE of Birmingham used to come out into the hills to brawl and gamble in Victorian times, and the 1880 bylaws used much the same language as today's Country Code: among the activities outlawed (in addition to the brawling and gambling) were "felling, cutting, burning, breaking or otherwise doing wilful damage or injury to the timber or other trees, shrubs, brushwood, gorse, furze, fern, flowers or turf on the common". The warden is still looking out for any breach of the bylaws.

The day I was there, there was a party of young Muslim women in exotic dresses walking about with their small children. They were from inner Birmingham, and neither mothers nor children had ever seen the English countryside before. They had been invited there as part of a new National Trust scheme to introduce more people to the countryside, especially those for whom it is an unfamiliar and even alarming place.

To make the introduction easier, there was an exotic line of custom-built scarecrows on one hillside, erected by a local "crow man", and the children were getting great amusement out of these. Let us hope that, with the help of the Clent Hills, they will graduate into seeing real scarecrows in due course.

DERWENT MAY

Etched in black and gold



Keith Cheetham at the Black Country Museum

It must be a job selling the Black Country. The name carries heavy connotations: industry, soot, dirt and grime. Its whereabouts is another conundrum: "above Gloucester" and "below Manchester" perhaps. Not that this deters Keith Cheetham, the area's director of tourism. "We have the old heavy industry image to overcome, but once people have been here their perception changes for ever," he said.

Officially the Black Country takes in four West Midlands boroughs: Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley. The area led the early Industrial Revolution. It had outcrop coal, charcoal, iron, firestone and lime. Cottage industries spread from village to village until each had its own specialism. Bloxwich crafted awls and cockspurs. Rowley made jew's-harps. Cradley Heath hammered chains and anchor cables. Oldbury specialised in chemicals; Willenhall in locks; West Bromwich in springs; Stourbridge in glass. Tipton-on-Cut had so many canals it was called the Venice of the Midlands.

The Black Country skyline was dark by day (hence the name) and gold by night because of plumes of soot and the glow of furnaces. Queen Victoria snapped shut her carriage curtains when she sped through by train.

The furnaces still fire and blast today, as they have since 1776, at Royal Brierley Crystal in Brierley Hill. The factory visits display glass blowing, glass turning, marking, etching and polishing. World-class craftsmanship passes from master to apprentice. Watching the diamond lathe etchers is a show of skill and concentration. American tourists seek out Royal Brierley.

The heart of the Black Country is Dudley and its focus is Dudley Castle. Its hill site has housed a castle since the time of Dudo, a Saxon king. The ruin (abandoned in 1750) rests on a seven-mile ridge running southeast from Wolverhampton known as the Dorsal Ridge of the Black Country. It is England's main watershed. Rain falling on its west side trickles to the Bristol Channel. Water on the east heads for the North Sea.

An excellent exhibition in the castle conjures the colours, sights and sounds of a medieval motte and bailey. Directly beneath the castle hill is an early canal system, the Dudley Tunnel. It was cut in 1775 and linked the Earl of Dudley's limestone mines with the Birmingham and Stourbridge Canals. A boat trip through the system to hear the history of the caverns and mines is perfect on a still summer night.

The region's top draw is the Black Country Museum, an industrial heritage of film-set proportions. Imagine typical Black Country buildings — 19th-century foundries, metal workshops, ironworks and stores — moved brick by brick and reassembled as a 26-acre model village. The streets are cobbled, the shops packed with period goods and costumed actors greet you at anvil and doorstep and recount the conditions of the day.

Many new tourists attracted to the Black Country have local connections, often tracing their family history. They may be as intrigued as the Americans to discover where the Black in BC comes from.

ALEX WIJERATNE

● Where to stay: Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley (01384 482882). Weekend rate £109, two nights' double B&B plus museum tickets. Fairlawns at Aldridge, Little Aston Road, Aldridge (01922 55122). Weekend rate £55, double B&B.

● Black Country Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley (0121-557 9643). Open Wed-Sun 10am-4pm until Dec 22; £5.95, children £3.95.

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25 February - 12 March 1997

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Gatwick) - Colombo with British Airways.

DAY 2 Colombo On arrival drive to the MS Caledonian Star. Embark and sail in the evening.

DAY 3 At sea

DAY 4 Male, Maldives Our first call in the Maldives will be at the capital of Male. Here there will be a morning walking tour visiting the Great Mosque, museum and market. Sail during lunch to the lovely resort island of Bandos for an afternoon of leisure.

DAY 5 Maldives Today we will explore the Maldive Archipelago, using our Zodiac craft to land on tiny atolls and for those who wish to swim and snorkel over the reefs.

DAYS 6, 7 & 8 At sea

DAY 9 Praslin We will reach the Seychelles in the afternoon. Our first landfall will be Praslin where we will moor overnight.

DAY 10 Praslin - La Digue Morning visit to Praslin's famous Vallee de Mai, the exotic rain forest nature reserve which is home to the bizzarly shaped coco de mer and the rare black parrot. Sail during lunch to nearby La Digue, thought by many to be the most beautiful of all the Seychelles islands. Explore on foot, bicycle or oxcart. See the stunning beaches with the giant granite outcrops. Moor overnight.

DAY 11 Cousin Morning visit to the Special Nature Reserve of Cousin, an island totally encircled by a reef. This is a wonderful place to see many of the Seychelles rarest birds, also the endangered hawksbill turtle and the giant Aldabran tortoise Sail during lunch to Anse Lazio, a spectacular beach on the north western tip of Praslin. Here you can enjoy the excellent swimming or snorkelling or join an organised walk along the fascinating network of footpaths through the forests and along the headlands. Moor overnight.

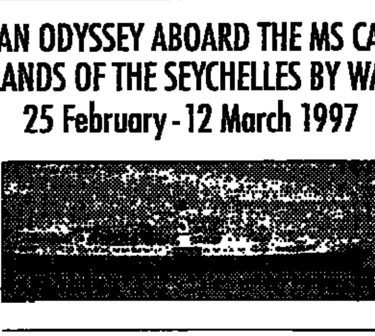
DAY 12 Grand Souer Morning visit to the tiny island of Grand Souer, followed by an afternoon on Curieuse. Join an island walk, look out for the giant tortoises reintroduced from Aldabra, see the ruins of an old leper colony and enjoy the splendid beaches.

DAY 13 Aride - Bird Island Formerly a plantation island, Aride is now a nature reserve and home to over a million sea birds. Sail during lunch to Bird Island, a tiny mile long island famous for a huge population of sooty terns. The energetic may circumnavigate the island of foot.

DAY 14 Mahe Arrive at the Seychelles capital in the morning and disembark. After an island tour we will drive to the luxurious Plantation Club Hotel or similar for an overnight stay.

DAY 15 Mahe - London Day at leisure until evening departure with Air Seychelles to London.

DAY 16 London (Gatwick) Morning arrival.



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Poland: Pizza Hut and pop music have made their mark but it's impossible to ignore the past

Baroque with a pinch of salt

"After the cemetery," says Dr Bazozowski, "we will go to the salt mine." Tourism in Poland offers some novel experiences. Since the fall of Communism in 1989, the country has embraced the West and many of its values. Pierre Cardin, Benetton and Pizza Hut line city streets; 24-hour drive-in diners bustle in the suburbs: strip bars and Gay Video Peep Shows lurk down cobbled alleys.

The free market economy has brought Michael Jackson — booking 69 rooms at a plush Warsaw hotel — and a contained explosion of tourism. And it has brought Dr Bazozowski to our hotel in Krakow, Poland's former capital.

Dr B is a retired geologist. He wears a baggy blue suit and a tight pullover, tucked into his trousers. We have too little time to appreciate Krakow, he says, so he packs six hours of sightseeing into three hours before lunch. He skids and scurries along the rainy streets, a baggy blur. His commentary gets ever more frenetic — names, dates, styles, everything either very famous, very important or very interesting. By noon, he is faster than shorthand.

First, we hit the *Schindler's List* Trail. Steven Spielberg filmed extensively in Krakow, where the German industrialist saved the lives of many ghetto-dwellers. "He made a few mistakes," says Dr B. "But not special ones." The line recalls the Polish government minister who described the economy as "good, but not hopeless".

Dr B leads us through shabby industrial back streets into an overgrown Jewish cemetery. The graves are covered with moss and ivy. The Nazis smashed many of the stones and used them for pavements. Fragments have been rescued and set in concrete as a Wailing Wall. Fractured scraps of surname — . . .amberger, Rosen . . . — are stark reminders of oppression.

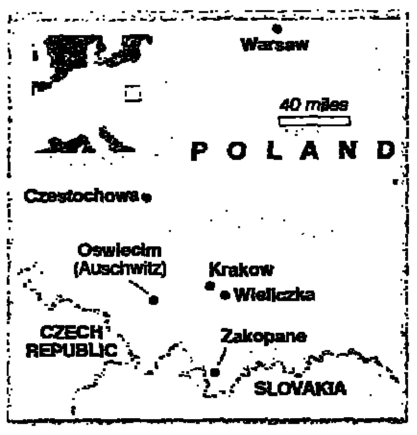
Later our bus bumps along a pot-holed street to Schindler's factory. Opposite a Solidarity noticeboard is a torn photograph of Schindler surrounded by factory workers. We peer through the locked gates (it is Sunday) and a man in an old vest stares down at us from a first floor window. He shakes his head and pulls the curtain.

Even 50 years on, it's difficult to avoid the war in Poland. The journey north to Nazi-devastated Warsaw will feature a harrowing afternoon at Auschwitz, but for the moment, we take in Krakow, a beguiling city which modern planners have yet to blight.

Its central square is reputedly the biggest and best-preserved in Europe. Buildings of Baroque extravagance and 18th-century elegance alternate with churches piled high with towers and turrets, spires, domes and pinnacles. Outside the church, stocky old women with headscarves and thick woollen socks sell bread rings and dazzling yellow orchids. Nuns heave great bags of shopping up narrow streets. And at the Staropolska Restaurant, a thick-set family sits down for a breakfast of boiled pig's leg, potatoes and cabbage. Poland is a meat-eater's paradise; as a vegetarian, I ate a lot of eggs. The record was seven in one day (variously cooked).

After lunch (omelette), it's time for the salt mine — at Wieliczka, ten miles east. This is tourism for human moles, a two-mile trek around underground passages that pull in 600,000 visitors a year. In three hours, we learn most of what there is to know about salt.

The mine — 1,000ft at its deepest and with 190 miles of passages — has been worked since 1280. It has long been a fashionable place to visit. Chopin came here, Goethe, the Pope (three times) — and Baden Powell, though his significance is lost on a group of Polish railway workers: "Baden Baden?" There's an underground tennis court, a vast cavern of a cathedral with The Last Supper carved out of salt and a Disneyesque sideshow where a small man wearing an enormous gnome's head spends his days banging lumps of rock salt together and gazing plaintively at visitors. It makes working in Santa's Grotto look dignified.



We drive south, past farmyards of geese, fields of rain-drenched haystacks and farmers with horse-ploughs, to Zakopane, a winter sports resort in the Tatra mountains. The scenery is reputedly stunning, but the mountains stay hidden in mist for two days. Only as we leave do the white peaks gleam in a sudden spotlight of sun and, point proven, the clouds close again like a theatre curtain at the end of a show.

The town centre is Poland's answer to Aviemore — eateries with spit-roast chickens, Swiss chalet hotels and tacky tourist stalls. National styles may vary but junk is universal. In the "folk restaurants", men with walrus moustaches holler raucous songs about unfaithful women and exile from the mountains. They play sweaty peasant dances on violins and, between vodkas, point out that their leader's grandfather taught his folk melodies to Szymanowski. Karel Szymanowski was Zakopane's most famous resident. As Poland's major composer between Chopin and Lutoslawski, he settled here in the 1930s and his home, a wooden chalet, is now a lovingly-maintained museum. Young women with serious faces sit on the vine-covered verandah, clasp their hands and listen as his music blasts from the loudspeakers.

Around the house are his white bow tie, apparently just dropped there 60 years ago after a concert, a cigar holder, a typewriter, an alarm clock, a reading lamp with its parchment shade carefully tilted. The atmosphere is powerful — fusty, Bohemian, slightly repressed.

Chopin's birthplace, further north at Zelazowa Wola, is a more formal affair. Recitals are regular events. A dozen-strong audience sits ten feet from a Steinway grand and suddenly a mature lady pianist swoops on the keyboard. She is swathed in purple chiffon. At three in the afternoon, it's as though Elvira from *Blithe Spirit* has materialised to bang out a few mazurkas. At climaxes, her dangling earrings jangle in time to the music. Outside, stalls sell Multimedia Chopin on CD-Roms.

The atmosphere of Chopin's music is less self-consciously distilled at nearby Nieborow, a grand 18th-century palace which the composer knew. Behind statues of sprawling lions, the gardens stretch out like a miniature Versailles. The gardeners sit eating their lunch between piles of autumn twigs.

Our week centres on Czestochowa — an average town but one of the world's great pilgrimage centres. In the hilltop monastery, old women whisper rosaries and office workers haul in candles as big as pillars. The walls are covered with crucifixes and, bizarrely, crutches and walking sticks. There's a strong hint of miracles.

The focus is the Black Madonna, a much-venerated painting over the altar. As the service closes, fanfares sound, a gold screen slides down over the Madonna, the Church's craving for drama is satisfied and the old women waddle to the confession boxes.

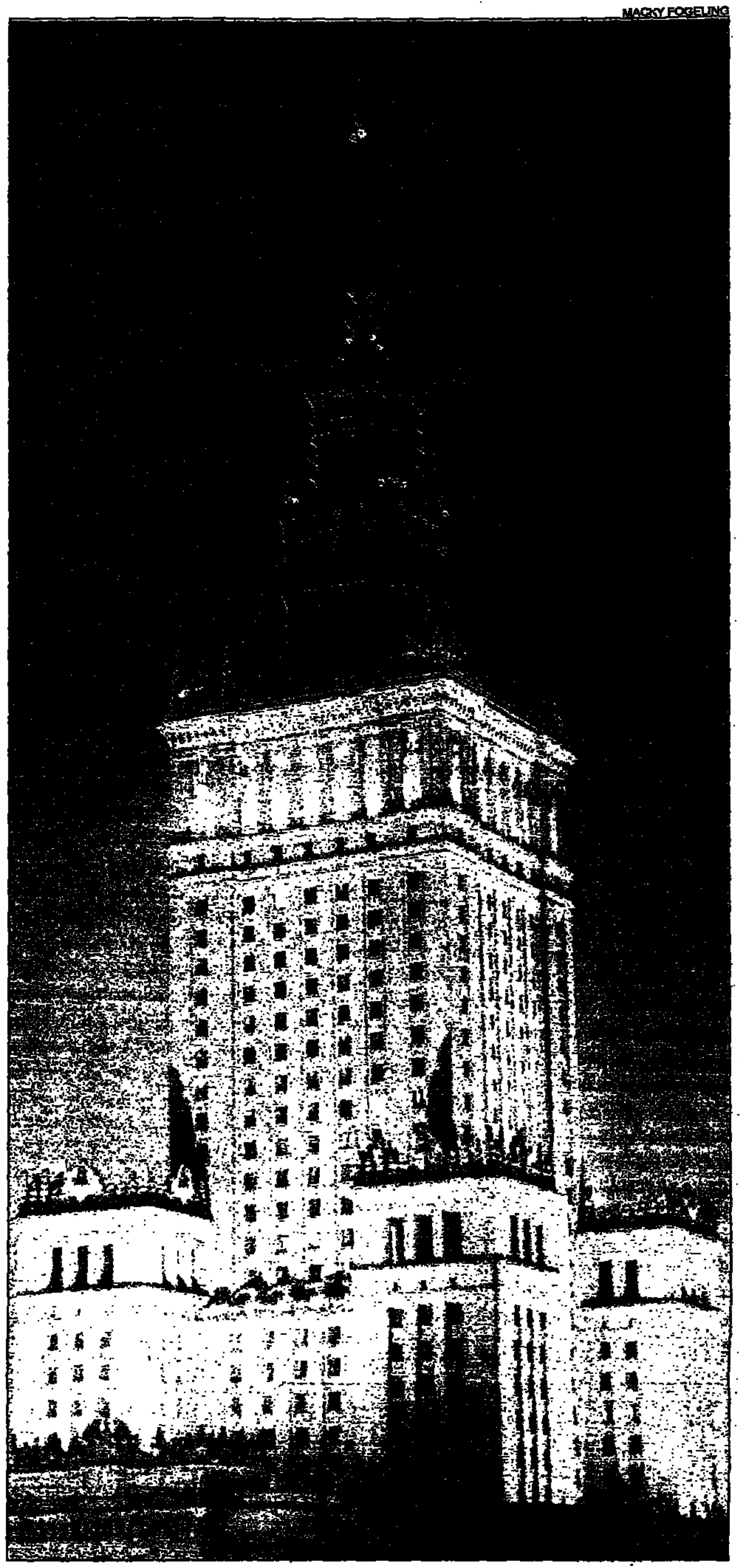
Those old women survived the Nazi occupation, now chillingly remembered at Auschwitz, where prisoners were taken "to start a new life". School parties tour the camp, which presents unspeakable horror with forensic matter-of-factness. It makes an unlikely tourist attraction but, in Poland, an inevitable one. In Warsaw on our last night, we see photographs of the Nazis' destruction of the city — prairies of demolished brick under a slate-grey sky. The old city has been rebuilt, like a stage set. It is, say Warsovians, the newest old city in Europe.

The crowds are out for Michael Jackson. Street markets flourish. Another McDonald's opens. Poland renews itself again.

STEPHEN McCLARENCE

● The author was a guest of Exodus and Polish LOT Airways.

MACKY FOGELING



The Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. The city was rebuilt after the war

POLAND FACT FILE

■ *Exodus (0181-675 5550)* offers a 14-day Historic Poland Discovery Holiday, including Krakow, Czestochowa and Warsaw, from £770, which covers return flights from London with LOT Airways, transfers, accommodation, *transport* and a guide. A local payment of £80 covers half-board. *Departures from June to* September.

■ The Polish airline LOT (0171-580 5037) flies from London to Warsaw daily from £205 return (including tax) and from London to Krakow three times a week *from £240.10 return* (including tax). British Airways (0345 222111) flies *direct from London to* Warsaw from £236 return.

■ In Warsaw, the Solec Hotel (00 88 22 625 4400) charges about £60 a night for a double room with breakfast. The Hotel Europejski in Krakow (00 48 12 251503) *charges about* £35 (double without breakfast). *The Bialy Potok* Hotel in Zakopane (00 48 165 14380) charges about £30 and in Czestochowa, the Hotel Patria (00 48 34 247001) about £55 (both double with breakfast).

■ UK passport holders do *not need visas. Sterling or* travellers cheques (dollars are preferred) can be changed in hotels and main banks. The unit of currency is the zloty. A good meal can cost less than £5.

■ Polish National Tourist Office: 0171-580 8811.

TRAVEL TIPS

Driving force

THE Australian *Magic Holiday Guide* from Airline Network (01772 72 72 72) offers self-drive holidays in Australia and New Zealand, *Jill Crawshaw writes.* A nine-day Brisbane-Cairns self-drive holiday costs from £399 per person, including eight nights' accommodation and car hire.

All afloat

ABERCROMBIE & Kent's (0171-730 7795) new Discovering Africa programme offers unusual lodges and off-the-beaten track safaris in 12 African countries, some tailor-made for individual travellers, others for escorted groups. During a week's "Wings over Tanzania" safari you hop from Tarangire National Park, one of the country's least visited reserves, to Ngorongoro, and from Serengeti to Arusha, for £2,920.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from Page 27

TWANKAY
(c) A variety of green tea (in full *Twankay tea*), properly from the place so called. But also applied to blends of this with other growths. A toponym from the Chinese *Tongké*, dialect form of *Tun-ki* or *Tun-chi*, the name of two streams (and a town) in Anhui and Chi-kiang, China. Authorities differ as to which of these is the true source of the emetic tea. "He didn't want to sit drinking hot grog with the old boy. He infinitely preferred cold Twankay, with the young damsel."

TENACE
(a) A name given to the combination of two cards of any suit, consisting of the next higher and the next lower in value than the highest card held by the other side, especially when this combination is held by the fourth player. From the Spanish *tenaza* pincers or tongs. "If you have tenaces in your hand, that is two cards which, if you have the leading, you are sure to lose one of them; if the player lead to you, you are sure to win them both."

UMBEL
(b) A mass of inflorescence borne upon pedicels of nearly equal length springing from a common centre. Adaptation of the Latin *umbella* a sunshade or parasol, the diminutive of *umbra* a shadow. "On the top of the branches of the elder, there spring sweet and crisped umbels, swelling with white odoriferous flowers."

URSULINE
(b) A religious order of nuns, established under the rule of St Augustine in 1572 from a company founded at Brescia in 1537, for the teaching of girls, nursing of the sick, and the sanctification of the lives of its members. The eponym of *Ursula*, name of a legendary early British virgin-martyr. "These it is my purpose to dedicate to Heaven in the convent of the Ursulines."

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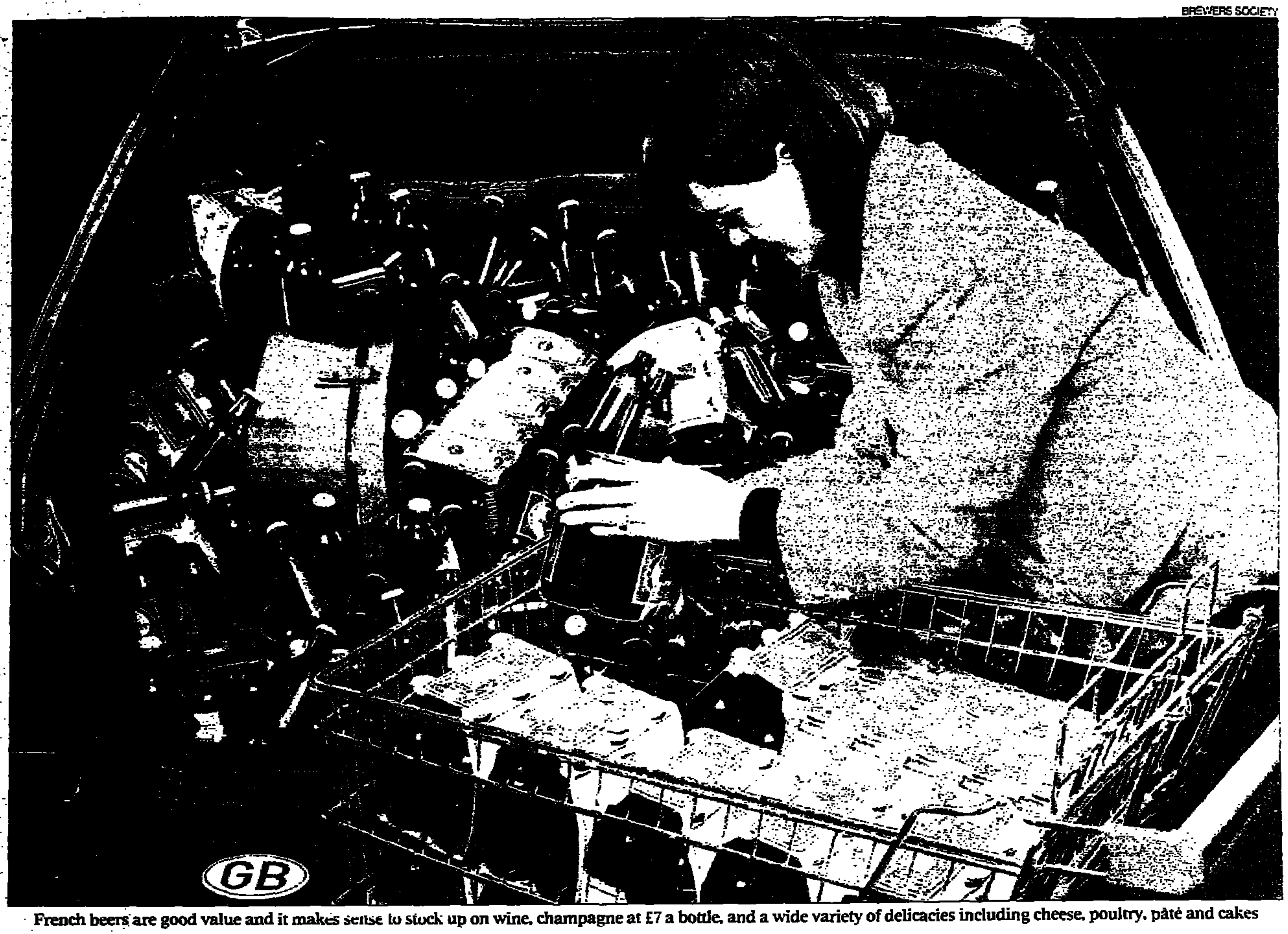
BREWERS SOCIETY

French beers are good value and it makes sense to stock up on wine, champagne at £7 a bottle, and a wide variety of delicacies including cheese, poultry, pâté and cakes

Despite the *franc fort* and the improved standards of British supermarkets, those who want to give a different flavour to Christmas will still be heading across the Channel for their festive shopping.

The best plan of all is to use the opportunity provided by rock bottom ferry fares to stock up, not only with all the wines, *spirits* and beers that the season's festivities may require at duty free or French (very low duty) prices, but also to lay in all the ingredients of a traditional French Christmas. Here's how to do it.

● **Wine:** add to your alcohol shopping *list* a *vin doux naturel* or two: Muscat de Rivesaltes, Frontignan or Beaumes-de-Venise. Served chilled these make an excellent Christmas morning *apéritif. They* are *also* an ideal accompaniment to Christmas pudding and mince pies and *stay fresh for* a fortnight or more after opening if kept in the fridge. *The cheapest champagne in* French hypermarkets is about Fr62 (£7) a bottle, and *better than cheaper* substitutes such as Saumur, *crémant* or Blanquette de Limoux.

The most catholic wine selections in the French Channel ports are available from the British wine retailers who, *faut de mieux*, have opened up there to get themselves some of the "booze cruise" action. Sainsbury's is alongside Mammouth in Calais-Ouest. Tesco and Victoria Wine in the huge Cité Europe shopping centre just outside Calais, and the Grape Shop is in Rue Thiers, Boulogne. The last two are the most attractive and helpful.

● **Beer:** rather than ordinary lagers or British beers for reimportation, buy some of the local special beers. Particularly recommended: Brasserie Castelain *bière de garde*, Ch'ti Blonde, L'Atrébate malt beer from Brasserie Becu, and Bière des Trois Monts, a top-brewed beer from the Brasserie de Saint-Sylvestre with a notable strength of 8.5 per cent.

● **Oysters:** no French Christmas is complete without oysters. The French fish shops (L'Huitrière Calaisienne in Boulevard Lafayette or A la Sole Berckoise in Boulevard Jacquard, Calais) and hypermarkets can provide seaweed packed panniers of the molluscs in which, kept moist and cool, they will safely survive two *to five* days.

● **Hams:** try moist-cured *jambon de-Paris* (a rival to *best York*), *more* mature Ardennes, air-dried Bayonne, and Italian specimens, *from Val d'Aosta*, San Daniele and Parma, often at promotional prices.

● **Turkey:** *Licques*, a *short*-distance inland from Calais, is as famous in France for its *turkeys as Norfolk is in* England. To order ring Licques Volailles on 00 33 321 35 80 03. *They will reserve* birds for collection, or deliver by mail order.

● **Other poultry:** *the classic* French bird is the *poulet de Bresse*, but the Nord Pas-de-Calais also has a reputation for chickens, guineafowl and ducks. A red and blue label appears on birds whose quality and origin within the region is guaranteed. Major *brands are Des Essarts* and Fland'art.

● **Christmas pudding:** the French make festive puddings which use plums — and not shrivelled grapes — *in a light* sponge.

● **Christmas cake:** not a dense and heavy fruit-block loaded down with fondant icing, but a light and cheery chocolate concoction called *buche de Noël* (yule log). The best *boulangerie-pâtisserie*, also for cake and speciality bread, in Calais is the anonymous shop of M Merlot at 10 Rue Jean-Noël Dubout, off *the* north eastern corner of Place d'Armes in Calais-Nord (the coastal end of town). Also good are the Pâtisserie aux 6 Bourgeois at 53, Rue Royale, Calais-Nord; *M Verschelle's* Aux Delices de Calais, at the corner of Boulevard Jacquard and the Rue des Quatre Coins in (inland) Calais-Sud; Fred, at the bottom of Boulevard *Jacquard, near the* town hall, and also on Place Dalton in Boulogne; and the three branches of Cornet d'Amour in Boulogne. For those with time to take a spin down the coast, the oustanding *pâtisserie* of the region is the Lido in Le Touquet. Aux Delices de Calais and the Lido also do *marrons glacées*, chocolate truffles and *petits fours* of premier quality, all essential purchases if your French Christmas is to be complete.

● **Cheese:** the British have the unwholesome idea that stilton should be eaten with a spoon, an ungainly way of ruining a cheese which, since it is now all pasteurised, has lost much of its distinction in any case. For a cheese that really does need a spoon buy the traditional French Christmas cheese, the unctuously creamy Vacherin de Mont d'Or. The ideal source is the miraculous Fromagerie of *Philippe* Olivier, at 43 Rue Thiers in Boulogne. If you really do not have time to go further than Calais, try the Maison du Fromage in Rue André Gerschel off Place d'Armes in Calais-Nord. Other great French Christmas cheeses include Roquefort (to go with Sauternes), and the northern specialities, pungent Vieux Lille and the piquant Boulette d'Avesnes.

● **Foie gras:** this can be bought semi-conserved, fresh-blanched (*mi-cuit*), or raw. If you buy raw, a favourite restaurateur (such as M Laurent at the Relais de la Brocante in Wimille or M Carré at L'Epicure in Wimereux) may agree to cook it for you at a modest charge. It can be transported in a cool bag with freezer blocks, and will last about a week. Sources for *foie gras* and associated delicacies such as *magret* and *confit* include M and Mme Canler at Trésors du Puits du Sart at Hernelinghen (321 85 00 79); M and Mme Dusautoir at Haut-Locquin (321 93 18 80); and M et Mme Dellerie at Maninghem (321 90 52 77).

● **Vegetables:** Nord Pas-de-Calais is one of the principal vegetable growing areas of France and the products from the fenlands around St Omer, the Audomarois, can be bought in Boulogne's marvellous Saturday morning market in Place Dalton and the streets around the Eglise St Nicholas. For midweek visitors there is a smaller market on Wednesday mornings also in Place Dalton. The leeks, cauliflowers, turnips, pumpkins, onions and shallots are superb. Look for Ratte du Touquet and BF15 potatoes, and smoked garlic, a local speciality with a wonderfully distinctive flavour.

● **Cooked dishes:** a good *charcuterie* will make up excellent winter dishes which only require reheating, including *choucroute garnie* (pickled cabbage with cooked meat), *cassoulet* (pork and poultry bean stew) or *petit salé aux lentilles* (pork and lentils). The best *charcuterie* on the coast is Bourgeois at 1 Grande Rue in Boulogne. Another source in Boulogne is Edgar Traiteur at 82 Rue de Boston, who takes orders on 321 83 04 25, or has vacuum-packed frozen supplies in the shop. If the shopping has to be done in Calais, try the gastronomic area in Cité Europe or R Bellynck at 10 Rue Royale in Calais-Nord.

● **Gifts:** the advent of Cité Europe with 110 shops and a Carrefour hypermarket has transformed shopping in Calais. The Auchan hypermarket at St Martin-es-Boulogne, though, still has the edge over Carrefour. Boulogne is only 20 minutes by *autoroute for those* arriving in Calais, and well worth the detour. A shop not to be missed on a *pre-Christmas* visit is Aux Gourmets at 7 Rue Porte Neuve.

ROBIN YOUNG

FESTIVE FERRY FARES

■ Hoverspeed (01304 240241): Dover-Boulogne by SeaCat catamaran: car plus two passengers £12*; car plus five passengers £15*; foot passengers £2. Dover-Calais by hovercraft: car plus two passengers £17*; car plus five passengers £19*; foot passengers £5.
(* £10 supplement on Saturdays)

■ Le Shuttle (0990 353535): Folkestone-Calais by tunnel and train: car and passengers £59 until November 26, thereafter £29 Monday-Thursday or £39 Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

■ P&O European Ferries (0990 980980): Dover-Calais by ship: until December 31 £15 for car plus £1 per passenger (£10 supplement on Saturdays); foot passengers £1.

■ Sally (0990 595522): Ramsgate-Dunkirk by ship: car and five people £15 Sunday-Friday, £25 Saturday; foot passengers £4.

■ Seafrance (0990 711711): Dover-Calais by ship: until December 31, car £5 (£15 Saturdays) plus £1 per person; foot passengers £1.

■ Stena (0990 707070): Dover-Calais by ship or Lynx catamaran: from today until December 31: car £15 plus £1 each passenger Sunday to Friday, £10 supplement on Saturdays; foot passengers £5.

■ Best restaurants: Le Relais de la Brocante, Wimille (321 83 19 31); L'Epicure, Wimereux (00 33 321 83 21 83); Hostellerie de la Rivière, Pont-de-Briques (321 32 22 81); L'Huitrière, Boulogne (321 31 35 27); Le Channel, Calais (321 34 42 30); Aquar'aile, Calais, (321 34 00 00).

Mitterrand's mementos

Like any French king, during his long reign President François Mitterrand *left behind* a number of monuments, not all of which were architectural. All around *Paris* are daily reminders of his public presence, from La Grande Arche at La Défense, to the Bibliothèque de France opening next month and the Louvre Pyramid. And all around the Left Bank are *reminders* of his spectacularly complex private life in the homes of his two mistresses and wife.

The tour of Mitterrand's monuments and mistresses would be difficult to complete in a day, so scattered are the sights, but no visitor can fail to pass a few even unintentionally. Here, Insider's Paris provides a guide to the important works and, as far as possible, the specific street numbers of *the* various residences.

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France by *the Gare* d'Austerlitz is the last of Mitterrand's *grands travaux*. Although erected faster and more efficiently *than the* disastrous new British Library in London, its unsurpassed ugliness and *inconvenience for* pedestrians have *not* proved popular. The four towers designed by Dominique Perrault, the architect, are supposed to resemble open books but already they have ugly blinds hanging at the windows to keep out the dazzling light. The basin between the towers is filled with full-size fir trees imported from Scandinavia, but humans are not allowed to promenade in the garden because the trees are held in place by dozens of guy ropes.

Former President Mitterrand's other Scandinavian import was more successful — his long affair with the Swedish journalist Christina Forsne, who was based in Paris. This resulted in Ravn, his supposed *nine-year-old* son. Mitterrand was a regular visitor in the 1980s to Mme Forsne's apartment on the Ile St Louis. After the birth of her child she moved to 4 Rue Rollin in the Latin *Quarter*, when she was not staying at the Elysée Palace.

Unlike the "coming out" of Mitterrand's illegitimate *daughter Mazarine* in *Paris Match* magazine and also at his funeral, the presence of *Ravn was kept* secret. Now, however, *Mme* Forsne *has* moved back to Sweden and has written *her* memoirs of the Mitterrand years — called *Don't You Love Life?*; it will be published soon.

It is a short walk from Rue Rollin towards the river and 22 Rue de Bièvre, the apartment with a garden where Mitterrand conducted the legitimate part of his private life, usually lunching there on Sundays with his wife Danielle and his family.

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO PARIS

From there, one of Mitterrand's favourite strolls was along the Bouquinistes — the bookstalls lining the Seine — which conveniently ends opposite the Louvre. Here stands perhaps the most popular symbol of his era: I.M. Pei's glass Pyramid in the Cour Napoleon.

Many other great projects are worth seeing only if you have good reason to go there: the Finance Ministry at Bercy, concerts at La Cité de la Musique, and performances at the Opéra Bastille. The new opera house was criticised as an "aesthetic error" when it was built, *but it has served to* revitalise the area round the Bastille. At the moment the building is covered in safety nets as its cladding cracks.

Most of Mitterrand's monuments can be seen in a panoramic view from the top of the Grande Arche *at* La Défense, an ironic take on the Arc de Triomphe. Johan *Otto von Spreckelsen, the* Danish architect, was commissioned for the project but died before completion *of the* arch, which is slightly squint, 112m high and covered in white *marble*.

From the arch there is a clear view of the Eiffel Tower, in the shadow of which lies Mitterrand's final resting place, an apartment and office at 9 Avenue Fréderic Le Play. His other mistress, Anne Pingeot, curator at the Musée d'Orsay and mother of his student daughter, lived in an adjoining state-financed flat. Mazarine was named after Rue *Mazarine in the sixth arrondissement*, where her mother and Mitterrand first trysted.

KATE MUIR

● Growing queues at the *Picasso and the Portrait* exhibition at the Grand Palais mean booking ahead for reserved tickets in the mornings: the afternoon is a free-for-all. Reserved tickets are Fr56 compared with the unreserved Fr50 in the *afternoon. Evenings are* quieter: the exhibition is open until 8pm every day and until 10pm on Wednesdays to January 20. The Grand Palais is closed on Tuesdays. Telephone 44 13 17 17.

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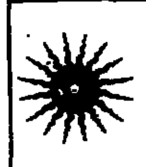

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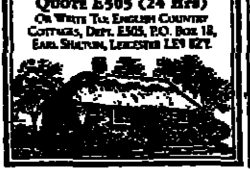

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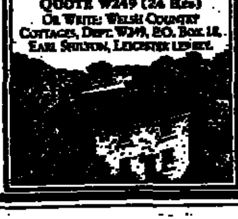

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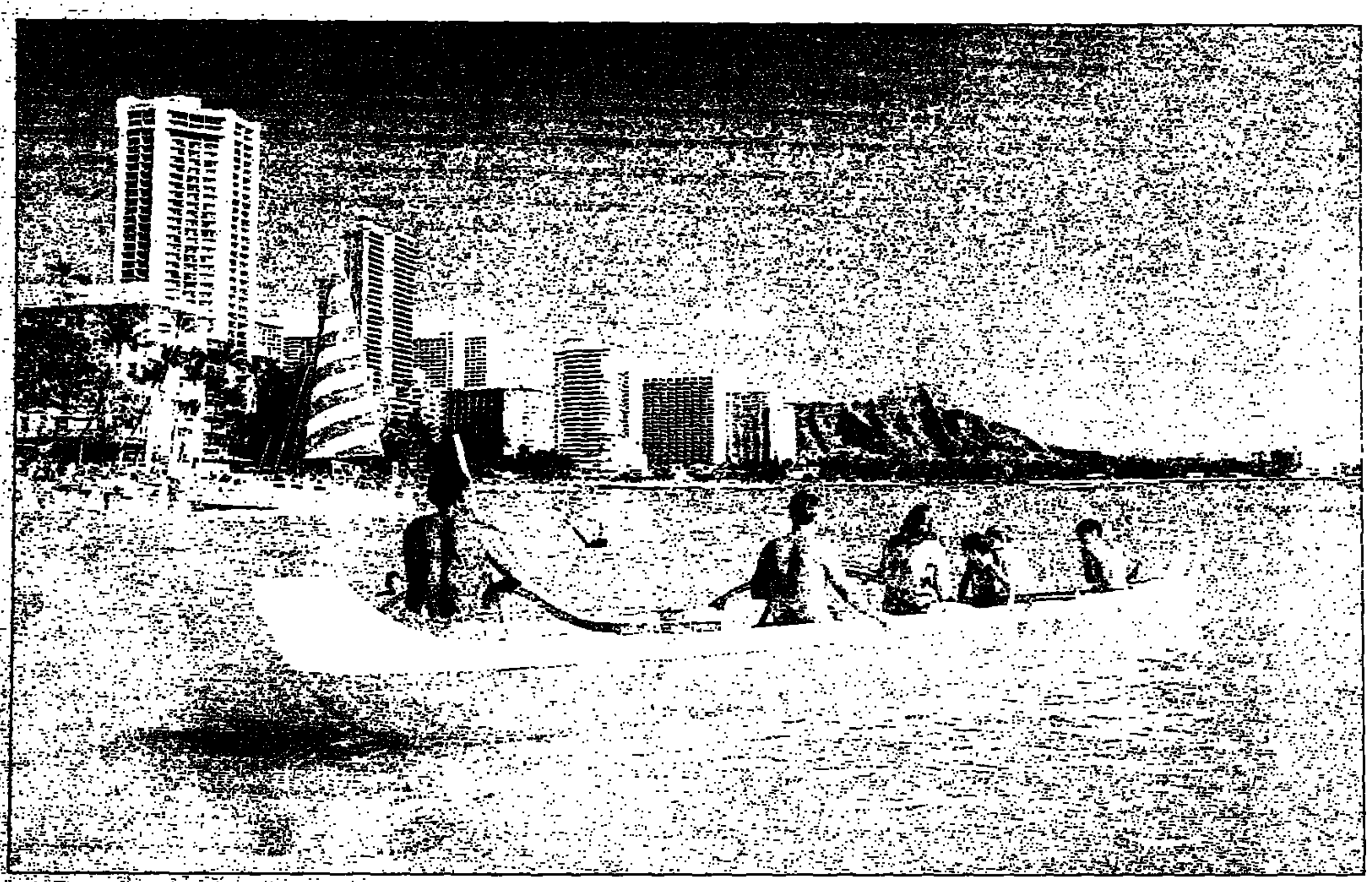

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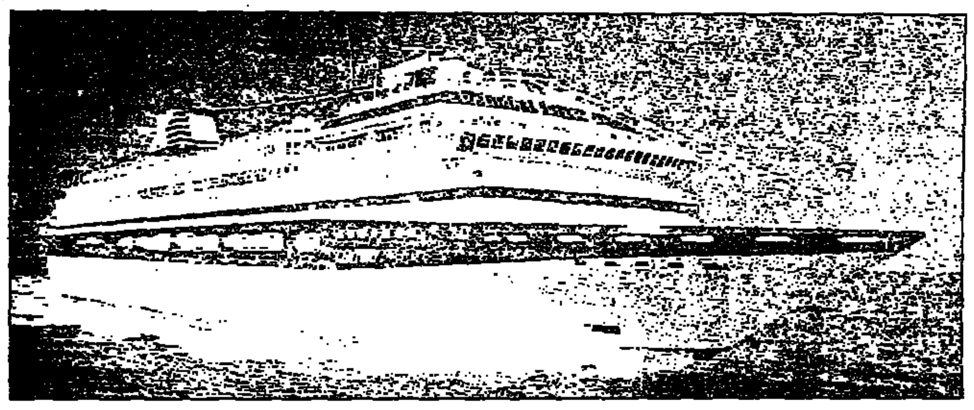

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هكذا من الأهل

Lake Constance: By boat to the medieval waterside towns of three countries, and the hills where Heidi played

Beautiful spot for holiday schnapps

From a holiday base on or around Lake Constance you can tour three countries by boat in comfort and style. Fed by the Rhine, the lake is about 29 miles long and nine miles across at its widest and shares its banks with Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

With mountains on all sides, the shoreline is dotted with little towns, each with its medieval and Renaissance treasures from the period when the lake was the crossing point for international trade routes. It is still busy with traffic, now the criss-crossing "white fleet" of ferries and pleasure boats.

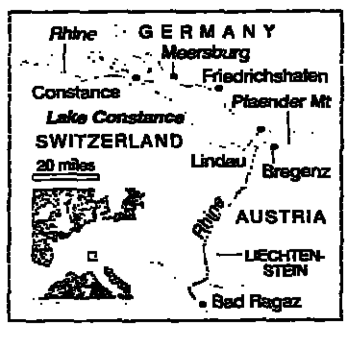
The heyday of Lake Constance, also known as the Bodensee, was at the turn of the century when visitors from all over Europe were attracted by the mild climate (the warm weather lasts well into October), the fresh mountain air and the natural hot springs which burst out of the mountainside at the Swiss resort of Bad Ragaz, a fashionable place for those needing an antidote to self-indulgence.

In recent years, the Bad Ragaz appeal has shifted to catering for the younger, health-conscious set who take their exercise seriously. Hence the well-equipped health centre. There are three thermal pools, one in the open, quiet rooms for relaxation between dips (20 minutes at a time in a water temperature of 95F is about as long as anyone should take), and an exotic choice of treatments for particular ailments.

The town, a few miles inland from the lake, is in an idyllic setting and on my first evening I watched the sun set over the Alps.

A tiny church, its spire sharply defined against the hilly backdrop, is where the children's writer Johanna Spyri drew her inspiration for Heidi, the orphan child with the heart of gold who went around spreading goodness.

There are other attractions, such as riding, cycling, hiking — and eating. It is a paradox of every spa that immediately you take a break from the health routine the culinary temptation beckons. In Bad Ragaz there is a patisserie on every corner and a gourmet restaurant on every block. The cuisine is cosmopolitan. Fresh mushrooms appear frequently at table, having passed the scrutiny of a full-time Inspector of Fungoids, along with the mature, tasty Alpine cheeses.



FACT FILE

- **Swissair** (0171-434 7300) has six daily flights from Heathrow to Zurich, from £99, excluding taxes.
- For information about the Relais & Châteaux hotels phone 0171-287 0987. R&C hotels in the area cost from about £120 a night for a double room.
- German National Tourist Office, Nightingale House, 65 Curzon Street, London W1Y 8NE (0171-493 0080).
- Reading: *A Time of Gifts* by Patrick Leigh Fermor (Penguin, £7.99, ISBN 0 14004 947 9). *Rough Guide Germany* by Gordon McLachlan (£11.99, ISBN 1 85828 128 8). *Switzerland Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £8.95, ISBN 0 86442 200 8).

The wines, mostly white, are fruity and flavourful, and come from small vineyards that rarely sell outside their locality.

In spite of its many virtues, Bad Ragaz has suffered poor holiday seasons lately. Now that German workers find it harder to claim convalescence on social security, fewer are turning up for the water cure. And among enthusiasts there is a feeling that Bad Ragaz should do yet more to bring itself up to date. New investment, including the rebuilding in the grand style of the Quellenhof, one of the leading hotels in the region, is intended to restore the town to its former place at the head of the spa league. One hopes it will not detract from the easy-going feel of the place, a haven set apart from the centres of mass tourism.

A short distance from Bad Ragaz is the medieval Austrian town of Bregenz, famous for its summer operas performed on a huge, floating stage. Next year the hot ticket is for *Porgy and Bess* (from July 17 to August 21) but there are plenty more musical treats from March to September.

The old town, narrow cobbled streets and timber-framed houses within a 12th-century wall, is a treat for strollers who invariably wind up at the family-run Hotel Deuring Schlössle, a 17th-century Baroque château half hidden behind Virginia creeper.

The hotel's father and son chefs, Heino and Ernst Huber, were on fine form when I was there. A crayfish salad was followed by salmon trout dumplings, scallops of venison with red cabbage and a red elder sauce. Plum tart and cinnamon ice-cream completed the meal.

Bregenz is a good starting point to explore Lake Constance. For a view of the possibilities, take the cable car to the top of the Pfänder (2,900ft). On one side are the Swiss Alps, on the other the rolling hills of southern Germany. Looking down to the lake, you see the island of Lindau straddling the German-Austrian border.

Along from there are a succession of sights — the Zeppelin museum at the German town of Friedrichshafen (Count Zeppelin was born in Constance at the far end of the lake); the medieval town of Meersburg, with its gabled houses and illustrated façades; and, best of all, the Rococo church at Birnau.

Inside the red-tiled and creamy walled church is an extravagance of rich painting and sculpture. Birnau went through a bad patch in the 19th century and at one time the church was used to store farm machinery. The rescue was achieved by Cistercian monks after the First World War when they began a restoration which continued into the 1960s.

For refreshment in convivial company return to Meersburg for lunch at the Winzerstube-zum-Becher, the oldest wine tavern on Lake Constance. In timber-lined rooms its menu ranges from meat grills to perch, trout and a salmon-type fish known as *felchen*, fresh from the lake. Cost: about £40 for two, with wine.

All the lakeside stops are on the ferry routes, and one of the joys of touring Lake Constance is the bargain travel card covering boats, trains, buses and cable cars in all three countries. Currency is not a worry either; most shops and restaurants will take whatever is on offer.

At the northern end of the lake is Constance itself, a Roman fort that became a city made rich by the cloth trade. All the symbols of medieval wealth are here, including elaborately decorated merchants' houses and a formidable cathedral. A modern touch is the huge statue of a provocatively attired woman with prominent abutments who stands guard over the harbour entrance. Feminists have protested about the lady of the lake, but to no avail.

Within easy reach of Constance is the "flower island" of Mainau, where the rich colours of tropical vegetation can shimmer into a delightful melange after a glass of the locally distilled schnapps.

Following the Rhine to the west of the lake is Schaffhausen, a name that serves for the town, for one of Switzerland's smallest cantons and for the mightiest waterfall in Europe. The Rheinfall is viewed close to from a platform or from a boat that bobs around the lower rocks. Then there is a culinary treat in store. The Rheinhotel Fischerzunft, on the banks of the Rhine, is where Andre Jaeger creates "menus of joy" by melding the Eastern and European cusine, from smoked salmon with chopped eggs and ginger to Indian-style soup.

At the end of my trip, I reflected on an accumulation of pleasures that had only begun to touch on the possibilities. Do not let anyone tell you that this part of Europe lacks variety.

BARRY TURNER

● The author was a guest of Relais & Châteaux and Swissair.

MACKY FOGELING

Lindau, which straddles the German-Austrian border, with its ornate clock, painted house façades and multicoloured tile roofs

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Rendezvous is continued on Page 28

صكنا من الاجل

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

AT THE Staunton Society dinner held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand two weeks ago, Daniel Johnson of *The Times*, in the course of his address, made a case for commemoration of another giant of Victorian chess, the historian Henry Thomas Buckle (1821-62). Buckle made his mark with his monumental *History of Civilisation in England*, of which two volumes appeared before he died prematurely of typhoid fever.

In chess terms, he won what was perhaps the first of all chess tournaments, the Divan tournament of 1849, held at Ries's Divan, now Simpson's. This was a national competition, an important forerunner of the the first international tournament, in London in 1851. Steinitz regarded Buckle as a stronger player than Staunton, while Anderssen, who won in 1851, claimed that Buckle was the strongest player he had met up till then. There are even reports that Buckle won a private match against Anderssen, but the evidence of reported game scores is scant.

Daniel Johnson urged that the Staunton Society should consider a suitable memorial to Buckle: "It could take the form of a blue plaque on the site of his residence at 59 Oxford Terrace, now 115 Sussex Gardens in Bayswater, or it might be a chess event in his memory, perhaps to be played here, on the 150th anniversary of the first tournament at the Divan, which Buckle won. We have two years in which to organise it."

The game which follows illustrates Buckle's advanced strategic thinking.

White: Henry Thomas Buckle
Black: Johann Lowenthal
London, 1851

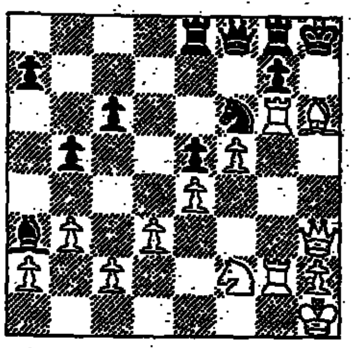
1 f4 f5 2 b3 Nf6
3 g3 e6 4 Bb2 Be7
5 Bg2

White's double fianchetto development of his bishops would not have seemed out of place among the hypermodern grandmasters of the 1920s.

5 ... c6 6 Nc3 Na6
7 Nh3 d6 8 0-0 0-0
9 e3 Bd7 10 Qe2 h6
11 Rfe1 Qc7 12 Nf2 e5
13 fxe5 dxe5 14 Nd3 Bd6
15 e4

A typical hypermodern device, punching at the centre after first restraining his pawns. If now 15 ... fxe4 16 Nxe4 Nxe4 17 Bxe4 Nc5 18 Nxe5 Bxe5 19 Bxe5 Qxe5 20 Bh7+ winning. Such variations show how Black's pawn centre can become a liability: Horrified by these hidden threats, Lowenthal tries an unsound pawn sacrifice.

15 ... f4 16 gxf4 Bg4
17 Qf2 Qd7 18 Qh4 Nh5
19 f5 Nf6 20 Ne2 Bxe2
21 Rxe2 Rae8 22 Kh1 b5
23 Bf3 Qf7 24 Rg1 Kh7
25 Rg6 Rg8 26 Reg2 Nb8
27 Nf2 Nbd7 28 d3 Kh8
29 Bc1 Be7 30 Bh5 Qf8
31 Qh3 Nxh5 32 Qxh5 Nf6
33 Qh3 Ba3 34 Bxh6



Far from gaining play with his sacrifice, Black is now at the mercy of White's counter-sacrificial onslaught. If 34 ... gxh6 35 Rxh6+ Qxh6, 36 Qxh6+ wins easily.

34 ... Nh7 35 Bxg7+ Rxg7
36 Rxg7 Qxg7 37 Rxg7 Kxg7
38 Ng4 Bc1 39 Qh5 Re7
40 Qg6+ Kf8 41 f6

Black resigns.

As Buckle himself wrote: "The discoveries of genius alone remain; it is to them we owe all that we now have, they are for all ages and all times; never young, and never old, they bear the seeds of their own life; they flow on in a perennial and undying stream; they are essentially cumulative, and, giving birth to the additions which they subsequently receive, they thus influence the most distant posterity, and after the lapse of centuries produce more effect than they were able to do even at the moment of their promulgation."

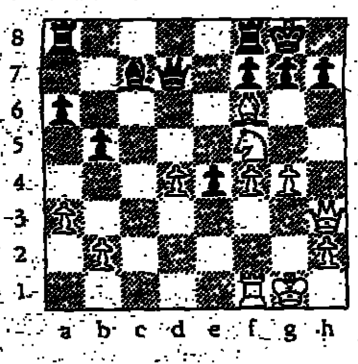
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Tal - Najdorf, Olympiad 1960. How could the tactical genius Mikhail Tal finish off his kingside attack in brilliant style?

Send answers on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct solution drawn on Thursday will receive a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes an invitation to the annual dinner. All first-time entrants will receive a copy of *Chess Monthly*. The solution will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Rxg4

Last week's winner: B Piper, Lower Edmonton, London.



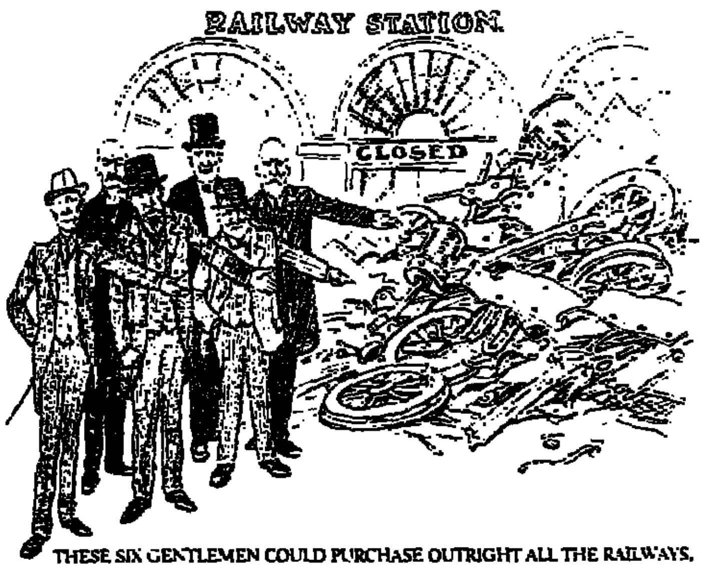
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

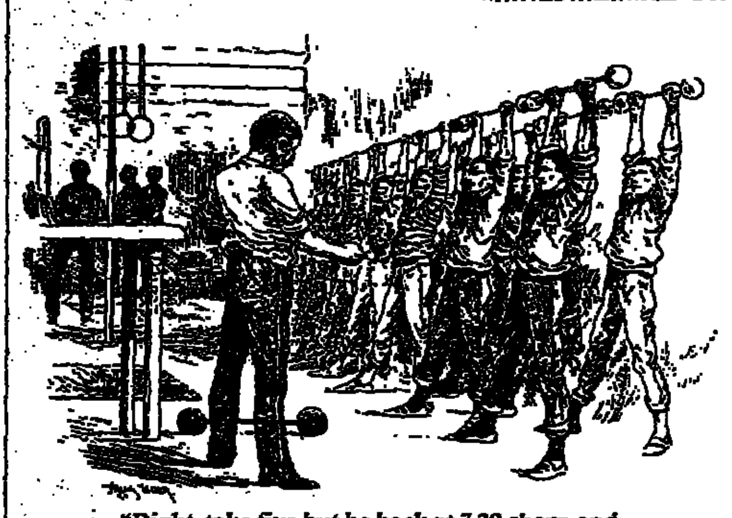
The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (26), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 20.



THESE SIX GENTLEMEN COULD PURCHASE OUTRIGHT ALL THE RAILWAYS, *WITH ALL THEIR ROLLING-STOCK AND BUILDINGS, IN ENGLAND*



"Right, take five but be back at 7.30 sharp and under the stage for the Pavarotti concert"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Michael Smallcombe of Esher, Surrey

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TWANKAY
a. A Chinese guitar
b. A small dhow
c. Green tea

TENACE
a. Catch 99 at cards
b. A carpenter's vice
c. Resolute

UMBEL
a. The innards
b. A parasol of flowers
c. Not beautiful

URSULINE
a. Like a bear
b. Order of nuns
c. A Turkish princess

Answers on page 22

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE BRITISH Open team failed by nine Victory Points (VPs) to get *to the last eight of the Olympiad* (a maximum win is 25 VPs). A problem for the team was that one of the pairs played infrequently. There were 35 matches *in the round robin; the third pair* (Paul Hackett and Ian Monachan) played in six matches, while Forrester and Robson played in 34 and the Hackett twins *in 30. Such an* uneven workload undoubtedly put a strain on the front two pairs: a more reliable back-up pair would have given the team a better chance.

The British Bridge League used performance in the 1996 Premier League as the basis for selecting the team. The Monachan-sponsored *team won the league* convincingly, and so was selected en bloc. In some years that method would produce near-enough the best team. But this year, several pairs clearly stronger than Hackett and Monachan played in the league, *on other* teams. Any one of those pairs would have strengthened the Olympiad team.

The 1996-97 Premier League starts this weekend. The BBL will use it as a guide to selecting the *team for the* 1997 European Championship, although there is provision for separate trials. One thing is certain: if the whole of the winning Premier League team is selected, it will not be the best team that Britain can produce. If *Monachan's team wins, that* would repeat this year's error. If some other team wins, it would be improved by the addition of either or both of the front two pairs in the 1996 Olympiad team.

● This hand from the women's *event at the Olympiad was re*ported to *The Times* by the tireless Chris Dixon. Beryl Kerr, of Great Britain, was declarer.

Dealer East East-West vul IMPs

♠AKQ10972
♥KQ
♦82
♣J6

West:
♠—
♥876542
♦10964
♣A52

East:
♠J863
♥J
♦J753
♣Q1087

South:
♠54
♥A1093
♦AKQ
♣K943

Contract: 6 NT by South
Lead: the eight of hearts

Beryl won the heart lead in dummy and played the ace of spades: an excellent contract suddenly became almost hopeless. However, when West showed out on the spade, she erroneously discarded the two of clubs. Beryl continued with the six of clubs *from dummy, and covered East's* seven with the nine: surprisingly that held the trick. She crossed back to dummy with the queen of hearts and tried a club to the king; when West won with the ace she had to play a red card.

Beryl won the heart return and cashed all her red suit winners. In the three-card ending East wanted to keep J x x of spades and the queen of clubs. Couldn't *be done, so the Brits scored* 990 to add to the 50 gained at the other table when North-South attempted the inferior contract of Six Spades.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

WHEN Steven Spielberg lends his name to a game, you know it is sure to have the highest production values, even if the results are on the sterile side. *Hollywood or bust is the name of* the game in **Steven Spielberg's Director's Chair**, which comes on three CD-Roms for Windows from Knowledge Adventure.

Promising a taste of the skills needed to produce a blockbuster, after the opening sequence you are ready for your first day at the studio. You have been employed to oversee budget and production of a thriller about a wrongly *convicted death-row inmate.*

First, you meet the two writers assigned to come up with your script. Should you view the unfolding action through the eyes of the prisoner or his plucky girlfriend? Select and arrange *individual written sequences or* delegate the boys to write the script in its entirety. Once finished, cult favourite Quentin Tarantino and Jennifer Aniston, from TV's saccharine-sweet *Friends* series, soon join the venture and await their orders.

Next, you move to the studio to shoot the scenes, five or six if you've opted for the off-the-shelf script. To position the camera in the right spot for all-encompassing wide-angle shots you click on pre-set icons — later, on harder *difficulty settings, you also* place two other types of camera, giving you more options. A large viewfinder swings across the screen, through which you view each scene as it is performed. After a take you must "print" it, then go on to the next until you have all scenes in the can.

The editing suite houses two *reel-to-reel decks, one* for playing and marking rushes and the other for compiling the master tape. Visits to sound, music and graphics labs follow to add scores, sound effects and titles to the film as well as design posters and tickets. Finally, you *run off a finished print — only* then can you see how well your efforts are received by the critical studio bosses and how well the film does at the box office.

In addition to Tarantino and Aniston, magicians Penn and *Teller feature. Spielberg makes* regular appearances, introducing each of the studio departments in turn. A personal assistant offers *constant encouragement and can* be paged for helpful tips. Rather than being a fast-paced unknown quantity balancing tricky editorial decisions with critical budget meetings and temperamental artistes' egos, you do little more *than logically follow the correct* order of mouse clicks. The title feels like a well-made but sanitary tutorial; an efficient behind-the-scenes tour of a studio at work devoid of any hint of backstage pathos or *drama. The various video* scenes you "film" are better acted than many but, even playing on a top-of-the-range desktop computer, these sequences do not run smoothly. Nor is the resolu*tion appealing when en*larged onto the silver-screen at the studio.

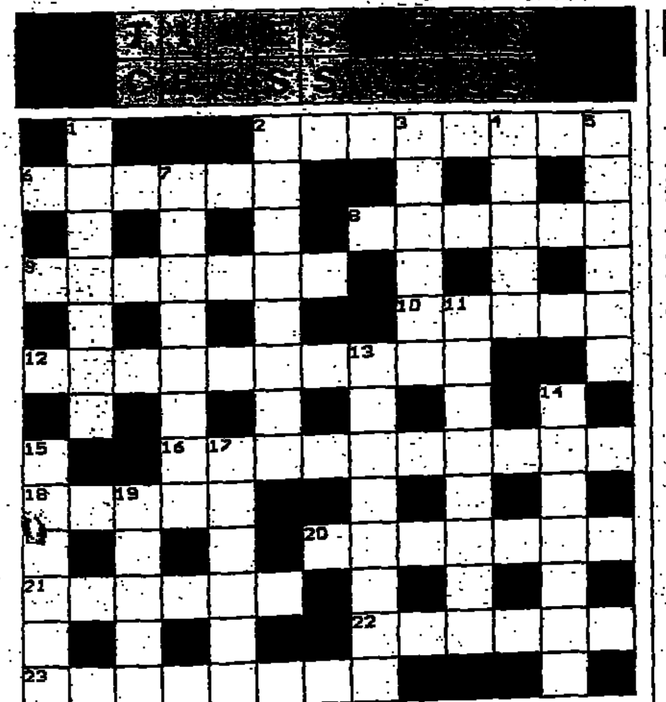
Be in charge of a Hollywood blockbuster in Steven Spielberg's Director's Chair

Prism Leisure has released three budget-priced children's CD-Roms. Intended for four to 12-year-olds, **Peter Pan and Hansel and Gretel** are electronic storybooks with neither charge nor sparkle. The narrators are American and the characterisations cheesy. London doesn't appear at all in *this version of Peter Pan, which* sounds as if it was recorded in a dustbin. *In addition* to the story, Hansel and Gretel includes eight unimpressive games. The third title, however, is a little treasure. **Create Your Own Fairy Tales** *lets children fire up their* imaginations by designing their own animated stories. They select backgrounds and objects, giving actions to a choice of characters, then add music.

This is the last call for **Cyberspace Twenty-Seven**, which closes on Tuesday and offers 12 copies of the Pet Shop Boys Videography on Video CD/CDi, a video compilation of 15 of the band's hits including *West End Girls, Opportunities and It's A Sin.*

To enter, simply answer the following question: "Which 1960s star performed on the Pet Shop Boys chart-topper from 1987, *What Have I Done to Deserve This?*" Send your entries — together with your name, age, address and home telephone number — on a postcard to: Cyberspace Twenty-Seven, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, London E1 9XN. The first 12 correct entries will win copies of the videography, plus the Running Press's *Bytes of Wisdom, offering advice* for computer users.

"That man's ears make him look like a taxi-cab with both doors open." Howard Hughes *Jnr on Clark Gable, who died this* day in 1960.



No 941

ACROSS
- 2 Assurances, undertakings (8)
- 6,8 The Babes in the Wood (*Grimm*) (6,6)
- 9 Advance, recommend (7)
- 10 More strange (5)
- 12 How the stranded are left (4,3,3)
- 16 Strikers' barrier (6,4)
- 18 Long walks: raises (price) (5)
- 20 Tailless moggy (4,3)
- 21 Provide money for (6)
- 22 Street Arab; hedgehog (6)
- 23 Without visible join (8)

DOWN
- 1 Very sharp bend (7)
- 2 *Sort of solid*, relationship (8)
- 3 Looking-glass (6)
- 4 Having had enough (5)
- 5 *Oppressively humid* (6)
- 7 No chance! (4,4)
- 11 With reading disorder (8)
- 13 Maker of Labyrinth, of wings (*Gk. myth*) (8)
- 14 Patient; null and void (7)
- 15 Cecil —, Cape PM: type of Ox. scholar (6)
- 17 Jewish state (6)
- 19 Franz —, *Trial* author (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 940

ACROSS: 1 Topical 5 Slog 9 Gloom 10 *Pimento* 11 Below the belt 12 Disown 13 Regard 16 Cantankerous 19 Debater 20 Bevel 21 Reek 22 Steered

DOWN: 1 Togo 2 Prowess 3 Commonwealth 4 Laputa 6 Lunge 7 Ghosted 8 Impenetrable 12 Decider 14 Aquiver 15 Skirts 17 Noble 18 Clad

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3384: 14 v 31 by Mr Lemon

ALL CLUES are normal. The lights to a significant *number of entries exhibit the movement of one* letter towards the end of each. The letters so moved, in clue order, should shed enlightenment on the theme, with which the two unclued lights are bound up. *Chambers* 1993 is recommended but does not give some proper nouns (*Times Atlas*) and three words (one used here in possessive form) in *OED*, which also justifies the verbal use of a word given only as an adjective in *Chambers*.

ACROSS
- 1 Sound system needs time and trouble (6)
- 8 Gold and precious metal adorning church (5)
- 12 About a thousand is a large quantity (4)
- 13 Stalk needs loose tie in support (7)
- 14 See title and preamble
- 15 Hunter wastes a second in prayer (5)
- 18 Mixed school ate quince in the Lebanon with projections (9)
- 19 Irishman drank with a sudden pull (7)
- 20 Finally spy maiden in spot with European priest (6)
- 21 Thorny projections on tree — one stowed in ship (6)
- 23 Shorten a game (7)
- 25 Gilds begin to abandon fiddle before supermarket's opening (9)
- 30 Resident alien doesn't get on in type of 19 year cycle (5)
- 31 See title and preamble
- 32 Air Traffic association design a watch-tower (7)
- 33 Some peel seen with other fish (4)
- 34 Ask in Scotland about records returned (5)
- 35 Chairs first parts of session in French (6)

DOWN
- 1 Dispute follows a drink in town on Tyneside (6)
- 2 Tailless weasel found around British river (5)
- 3 Wild impotent fellow given time inside (12)
- 4 Homer describes a current in lake (5)
- 5 Hotels instal first of units with water (7)
- 6 Hill (not tor) is like *this mountain height,* albeit rocky round about? (12)
- 7 For Sale — almost complete English set of tubes? (5)
- 8 Don't start to remove old bit of meat? (4)
- 9 Strengthened Senior Officer into saddle galloping (12)
- 10 Cordial uses earthy ingredients (6)
- 11 God's missing island songs of yore (5)
- 16 He's into the Indian concoction, principally? (5)
- 17 Rustic square farm vehicle (5)
- 20 Zambia has English and Scots bows for pirate vessels (7)
- 22 White man conquered peak this year (6)
- 24 Former diminution of Continental tax (6)
- 25 Little bird's perch at back (5)
- 26 Language may involve a little Latin (5)
- 27 Statesman's mildly obscene remarks (5)
- 28 That is describing heartless books by northern playwright (5)
- 29 Mountains I left in Argentina (4)

E	T	A	C	S	L	T	E	I	L	E	A	L	E
R	R	A	N	T	A	R	I	N	S	T	E	S	S
U	A	N	T	H	V	P	N	C	H	T	N	T	R
I	G	E	R	I	O	O	C	I	A	E	T	C	S
R	S	A	L	O	L	L	E	S	E	A	D	S	I
S	A	T	R	C	O	A	I	I	T	N	I	T	M
R	M	E	D	I	A	E	S	V	T	R	T	E	I
P	O	S	T	O	N	S	A	N	I	G	I	L	L
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T	P	E	E	P	I	T	O	E	T	S	H	I	E
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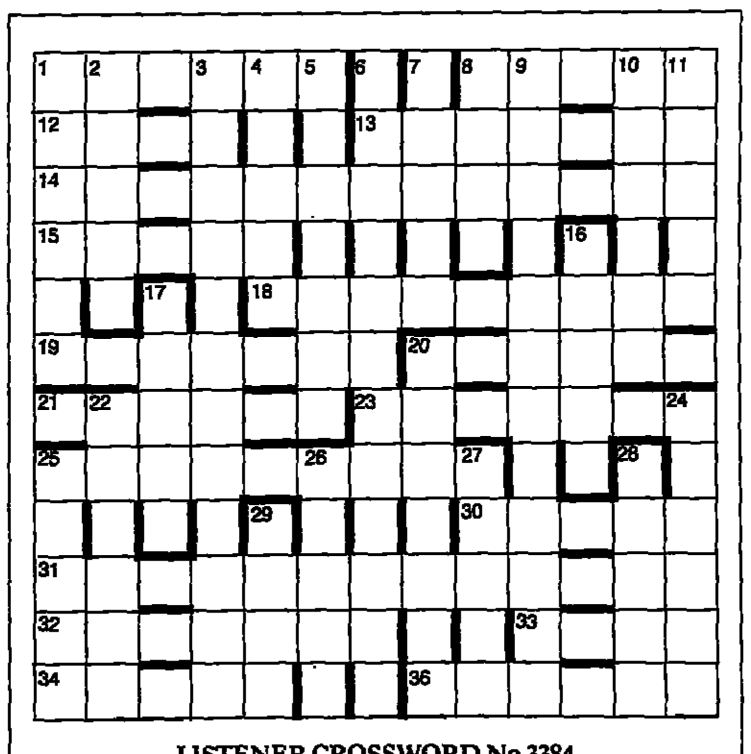
Solution to No 3381: Mixed Doubles by Ix

The winner is J. Harrington of Weybridge, Surrey.

The two runners-up are T.G.Evans of Aberdare, Glamorgan and J.B.Brown of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3384

In association with CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

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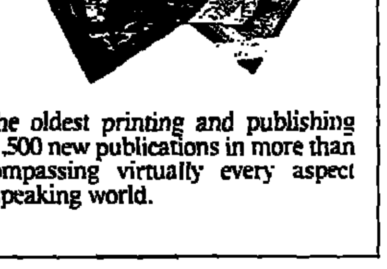
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3384, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, November 28.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with more than 36,000 entries: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume: and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering *all the leading writers and movements in* literature written in English up to the present. *Two runners-up will receive* **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.



Cambridge University Press, *the oldest printing and publishing* house in the world, issues about 1,500 new publications in more than 190 countries each year, encompassing virtually every aspect seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

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THE TIMES

Rendezvous is continued from page 26

LADIES

BERKSHIRE lady, attractive, slim, warm, caring WLTM gentleman, 50-55. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1320 ✍

BRIGHT, green eyed brunette, attractive, articulate, GSOH, successful, open mind, lively & warm personality (44) seeks male with similar traits who is looking for good company, friendship, romance & maybe more. London based. Please write with photo Box No 1015 ☎ ✍

CHARISMATIC, stunning, slim, stylish, sophisticated, tall N/S lady 41, GSOH. Enjoys city/country, horses, the arts, sport, travel. Seeks captivating discerning gentleman of means with high standards to enjoy finer things. Leics. Box 1258 ✍

COME & fly with this fit & adventurous (into riding, roller blading & sport etc.) long haired brunette (30), funny, warm & sincere. WLTM handsome, tall, athletic, honest, energetic 30+ man with GSOH & no baggage. London/ Home Counties. Photo a must. Reply Box No 1220 ✍

COMELY Brunette of 5'2", seeks handsome man, could that be you? Lovely, successful, slim & fun, late 30's but very young, needs someone who can stimulate me, make me laugh & try to be a friend. A soulmate is what I need, contact me & you'll be pleased. *(Ideal partner would* be 28-40), slim, romantic, successful & chatty. London/Home Counties. Reply with photo to Box No 1290 ☎ ✍

DO YOU love North Staffordshire? The Moorlands, The Potteries, and the *People*. Then I could love you, especially if you appreciated *the other finer* things in life (I am a petite dark lady in my forties). Photo please to Box 1253 ✍

EVERYTHING good, they say, comes in small packages. Well, I'm 5'2", 7½ stone, 37, brunette, zany female with high pressure job in London. Wanted: 6'+ male to complement this package. Must love the countryside, fast cars, good food, red wine by the gallon, sports and music, have a genuine, caring, honest nature with boundless energy and great sense of humour. Box No 1200 ☎ ✍

EXCITING blend of Gaby Roslin, Joanna Lumley & Goldie Hawn (young vintage). Stirred in Leeds. Needs a dash of tonic. Recent photo & recipe (less than 40 proof!) to Box No 1319 ✍

FIFTY on paper - thirty in spirit (no ties) WLTM similarly young at heart gentleman (N/S) to enjoy together theatre, dining out etc. South Coast. Reply with photo to Box No 1305 ✍

FAR EASTERN lady, attractive, tertiary educated, seeks 40 something, successful Londoner gentleman. Box No 1212 ☎ ✍

FUNLOVING, vivacious, professional, tactile 47 year old Taurean woman seeks male best friend for golf, walking, theatre, music, food, wine and companionship - possible lasting relationship. Box No 1161 ✍

GENUINE cosmopolitan chameleon, early 30's WLT fulfill her ardent desire to meet successful likeminded male entrepreneur. I am an attractive, curvy Asian brunette, stylish, astute & career orientated with a GSOH, a European outlook & wide circle of friends who enjoys a good quality life style. You are single, sincere, 35-42 yrs old, attractive, 5'10"+, medium to large build, emotionally & financially secure, considerate, uncomplicated with GSOH. You can enjoys frivolous nights out & romantic evenings in, travelling, the theatre & are powerful without being domineering, relaxed & easy going & prepared for commitment. London/Home Counties. Plse write with recent photo/tel no. Box 1163 ☎ ✍

HAZEL and Barbara, 40's would love to be invited to seasonal parties and social events, lots of fun, and wonderful company. Looking forward to your invitations. London based. Photo please to Box No 1345 ☎ ✍

GLAMOROUS professional woman 40ish tall, slim, auburn hair, GSOH, N/S, enjoys wining/dining, theatre. WLTM good looking professional without hangups or complications. London/Kent. Reply with photo to Box No 1191. ☎ ✍

HAZEL-EYED, attractive, fit, caring (!) Solicitor, 35, WLTM a challenging prof male, aged 32-43 with GSOH & varied interests. London/E Anglia. Box No 1113 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD
P.O.BOX 3553,
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LONDON, E1 9GA

LADIES

IF we're both so wonderful, how has it come to this? Slim, blue-eyed blonde, divorced, 40, educated and somewhat unconventional seeks literate male companion with lovely eyes. Hertfordshire. Photo & phone number please. Reply to Box No 1104 ✍

IS someone out there in the same situation as me? I am too hard working to be in the right place at the right time to meet the right man! I'm 31, pretty, slim - are you between 30 & 40, tallish, professional with good personality - solvency helps! London based. Photo. Box 1017 ☎ ✍

JAZZ-LOVING, glamorous 'girl next door', busy, with a touch of class. Into nostalgia. WLTM sincere, fit, N/S, interesting, attractive gentleman with SOH 40-55. London/Surrey. Photo please. Box No 1300 ✍

LOVELY house, elegant chatelaine, N. Cotswolds seeks 65-70ish up market kind & generous friend/companion. Photo plse to Box No 9743. *First replies lost in post* ✍

MADCAP Redhead, feminine, fun loving and attractive, curvaceous and cosmopolitan, independent temperament. WLTM an interesting, caring, self aware male (50-60) with GSOH for TLC, friendship, travelling & mutual discovery. London/ Home Counties. Photo/tel no. please. Reply to Box No 1340 ✍

NO Baggage tall, slim, glamorous, warm, all the toys - you too? (age to 50)Lets share holidays, boats, skiing & TLC. South. Photo please to Box No 9987

NORTHUMBRIAN *Long legged* stylish, successful, sensitive woman 40+ WLTM self reliant, tall, witty, tolerant man 45-55, for dream times. Box No 1178 ☎ ✍

POSITIVE sporty lady, 37, enjoys the game of life, ready to meet her match. Midlands. Exclusive Company Reply to Box No 1281

PRETTY woman with old fashioned values would like to share romantic country weekends and family and work in between. If you have a sense of fun, enjoy quiet times by the fire, evenings out with friends, are personally and financially stable, live within striking distance of NW London and would like to get acquainted with a green eyed American, 45, with a small company and an adorable 8 year old daughter, please write and enclose a photo. Please Reply to Box No 1077 ✍

QUALITY Woman, 49, of style seeks tall, quality man of integrity hopefully to enhance both our lives! She, 5'8", very attractive, positive, happy. He: successful, witty, open & unpretentious. N.Home Counties. Photo/tel no. Box 1316 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL & feminine woman in Southwest WLTM male 45+ with whom to enjoy beaches, travel, walking, horse riding, eating out, cinema, theatre & cats. Photo. Box 1199 ☎ ✍

SHOULD we meet in London or Geneva? Danish lady, 51, a warm and caring personality, with an excellent educational background, good looks and with an interesting job in Geneva would like to meet a gentleman 50's-60's. Among my varied interests are music, theatre and 'country life' including home & garden. You are independant with a healthy lifestyle, intelligent and at the point of life when you are ready to develop a mutual fulfilling relationship with possibility of long term commitment. Please Reply to Box No 1140.

SLIM, attractive, stylish, 43, female designer/lecturer seeks attractive, successful, cultured male, N/S, share romance, culture & good life style. London area. Photo - reply Box No 9672

SLIM, chic young 60s widow London, WLTM gentleman 63+ N/S, caring, solvent, music, travel, share future. Box 1174 ✍

SOUTH COAST brunette, good natured, fit with zest for life, attractive, style orientated, solvent. Interests - dancing, theatre, music, ballet, reading, travel WLTM intelligent, amusing optimist (40-50), 5'11"+. Photo please to Box No 1276 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

SPARKY, goodlooking outgoing busy 42 yr old, can't believe she's placing this ad. Brought up in country, now in rat race media wants similarly successful guy up to 45 to share scarce spare time with & play Batman with son. Don't mind second hand but not second best. No beer gutted, bankrupt, bald or bespectacled blokes need apply. London/Home Counties. Tell me what you like & send a decent photo. Box 1128. ☎ ✍

STRIKING female with busy lifestyle looking for love and romance - but failing that - a millionaire will do! Photo plse London based Reply Box 1291 ✍

STRIKING, vivacious *brunette* 40's, creative & caring, seeks attractive successful gentleman (45-55). Warks/nearby. Photo please. Box No 1233 ✍

TAKING a long look at my life and found it wanting - this stylish, attractive lady needs a male companion/lover, tender & caring who likes home life, country walks, cinema, theatre, reading & quiet times. (42-55). London/Home Counties. Photo appreciated. Box No 1292 ☎ ✍

UNDERSTANDING, honest, warm *Japanese* lady N/S late 40's 5'6" 9st, enjoys dancing, music, history, gardening, arts, good-friends, good-books. WLTM open-minded, cultured, honest gentleman 45-56 for special relationship. Photo & phone please. London based. Box No 1137 ✍

VERY beautiful Latin lady 40, slim, elegant, sensuous, loyal, caring, enjoys tennis, walks, cinema, arts, loves children. WLTM a nice gentleman. Photo appreciated. Box No 9879

WELL-EDUCATED, sporty, successful and happy lady, early 50's. WLTM similarly endowed gentleman to share the good things in life, including travelling. West Country preferred. Box No 1243 ✍

WILLIAM WALLACE where are you? World travelled, traffic stopping blonde, successful career *girl*, 41 seeks soulmate. Essential Braveheart, own teeth, fit, integrity, GSOH, international mind, sound bank balance. Children welcome. London based. Photo essential. Box No 1066 ☎ ✍

WOMAN with a past seeks wise man *for the future, who also* loves books, people, seriousness and fun. Over 45 please. Letter and photo reciprocated. Box 1189 ✍

GENTLEMEN

ABSOLUTELY genuine, caring, mature businessman, successful, kind, interesting life style seeks slim pretty young lady perhaps lonely wanting love, support, security and lots lots more for sincere relationship. Any Race/Colour. Phone number (photo returned) helps. London/Essex/South East/anywhere Reply Box 1458 ☎ ✍

ACCUSED by friends of being a romantic Taurian, 6 ft, businessman, 60 looks 50, swims 3 km & walks dog 30km/week, widely travelled, no ties, sails (yacht sold). Likes stimulating conversation, all really good quality music, radio 4, serious TV/films, antiques, gardens not gardening, log fires, cooks, giving dinner parties in W/London house. Seriously seeks a much younger, sharp witted N/S woman for committed, loving relationship. This is new for me. Recent photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 1363 ✍

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

GENTLEMEN

ADVENTUROUS Christian man, single, Scottish, 36, missionary for 8 years now running own business Glasgow based WLTM very committed Christian *female*, single, 24-33 for friendship leading to romance, marriage and family. Box 1533 ✍

AFFECTIONATE, loving, jolly, professional, romantic, sensitive, successful fit 49 gentleman seeks genuine pretty woman, feminine, soft, sexy, affectionate, easy going, unattached with sense of adventure to voyage to Paradise. 28-40 Northwest. *Photo/tel* no. to Box 1469 ✍

AIRLINE Pilot (Retired), 50's, Looks OK, solvent, kind, seeks girl friend, 40's, slim and attractive. Photo essential and returned. London or Home Counties. Box No 1499. ✍

AMUSING, genuine, prof n/s male, young, 44, solvent, seeks stunning soulmate for romance, holidays... fun in the sun. London based, photo preferred. Box No 1502 ☎ ✍

ANDOVER/Salisbury 25m radius. Hundreds of warm people. Ring Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open 7 days

APTERYX Rare independant creative man (45) fit serious & funny seeks fascinating intelligent warm good looking woman for extinction avoidance campaign. Bring good food music and map for adventurous travels. Photo important. Box 1476 ✍

ART-LOVING graduate, 50's, London SW1 WLTM tall girl friend (35-50) for country walks, fun, antiques, dining. Reply to Box No 1389 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE accountant, 6ft, kind, caring, easy going man, 37. Enjoys laughing, eating out, films, keeping fit, theatre, travelling, Yoga. Seeks female for fun, friendship, more. London/ Southeast. Reply Box No 1513 ✍

AUTHOR/Publisher - (London-based, 50, divorced, N/S) writing definitive book on 'Romantic Weekends' seeks very attractive, well-spoken female companion with SOH, good writing skills, mature personal skills, free to travel weekends, 30-50. Photo+ CV+ letter. Reply to Box No 1301 ✍

AUTUMN evenings, Christmas coming, alone? Live Bournemouth/Dorset? To meet someone special join the No.1. Elite Introductions 01202 891500 Ring us now

BE my Christmas present, the one I've always dreamed of!... My gentle, affectionate, pretty and petite new friend and maybe partner. Me? West Midlands, divorced, early 40's and nice looking. Materially successful, but alone. Please write with photo and perhaps we can be happy together Reply Box 1457 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

CARING, generous Camb graduate, 6 ft, 3 daughters seeks loving sensitive lady under 48 who enjoys travel & adventure. Photo/tel no. Box 1408 ☎ ✍

CO DIRECTOR, 49, 6' ,Irish, has flat in London - House in Ireland seeks lady 30s 40s to share fun times travel etc Photo please. Box No 1310 ✍

CREATIVE, decent looking prof male, 5'11, slim, *WLTM* unpretentious good looking female, 30-40 London/South East Photo please Reply Box 1277 ✍

DEVON/Cornwall. 100's stylish prof gentlemen Call now Elite Introductions 01803 845512

DON'T delay! two tickets for Debbie Harry and jazz event on the 1st of December. Dark eyed lady life companion (with mutual interests in Asia or the Orient)sought by tall, attractive, genuine, amusing professional Englishman, 50ish. If you are attractive, stylish 35 to 45 years old, interested in films, travel, art, companionship and looking to start a new life or friendship, reply with photo to Box 1492 ✍

DO you want to make this Christmas *special? Cheshire* man (52) wants to embark upon a new life with a n/s *female* companion, interests include the countryside, walking, reading, travel. Attracted? Why not phone or write? Perhaps you will be a companion not just for Christmas but for life. Reply Box 1366 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMEN

EASY-GOING gentleman (London based), caring & considered attractive, no ties & nothing to hide with GSOH. Wide variety of interests & hobbies, healthy & fit. 5'8", 11 stone, 40. Own *successful* business. *WLTM* an attractive, intelligent, honest lady of any nationality up to 35 yrs. *Looking for long term* relationship. Photo please to Box No 1364 ☎ ✍

EMOTIONALLY & financially secure professional male, fair, slim, 5'7", 56, fun loving, gentle, N/S, wide interests arts & sciences, enjoys independence. Offers & seeks sexually loyal commitment without emotional dependence, marriage not sought. Your intelligent, good looking, slimmish, even-tempered, financially *independent*. GSOH, under 5'6" & under 50; *free at w/ends & for* holidays & occasional weekday classical concerts, etc. London. Holiday Egypt late '97? North Herts/Beds/ N. Bucks/ London Photo please to Box No 1446 ✍

ESSEX/Suffolk Elite Introductions, for prof & business people. 01277 622338

EVANGELICAL Christian male, fully committed to the Reformed, Calvinistic and Puritan faith, single, professional, 6', *medium build, eligible*, lovely home, having a sincere, warm and intelligent personality seeks like-minded committed evangelical Christian lady, single, 28-36 of attractive caring and pleasant disposition. If this appeals to you I would like to hear from you. Box No 1162 ✍

GENTLEMEN

EX-PAT Scot handsome (apparently), distinguished looking and approaching 43, Managing Director. Divorced (16 months), so now ready to establish a romantic loving committed relationship with pretty n/s partner (35 - 40ish) Interests vary from golf/gym to more cultured pursuits. GSOH. Norfolk/Yorks based. Photo plse Box1369 ☎ ✍

GALEN gwilo Architect 38 yrs old, tall and strong based near London seeks sensitive woman 25 to 35 yrs old for walks in the country, romantic candlelight dinners, and cuddles. Please send photo and phone number and lets chat. Please Reply to Box No 1475 ☎ ✍

GENTLE, aware, graduate, young 50's, N/S, tactile, sensuous, yet meditative and spiritual, own business, widely travelled, many interests, inc. Reiki, healing, Tai Chi, personal growth, seeking special woman, probably 40's, similar self awareness and interests, curvy, playful, affectionate to share holding hands, hugs, passion, laughter, tears, stillness, candlelit moments, music, picnics, country walks and hopefully much more on our journey together. S. East. Photo appreciated. Box No 1273 ✍

HONEST, caring and cricketing chap, 30, seeks pretty maiden for mutual bowling over. Decent all-rounder with long-term future in mind. Photo and possible match report, please, to Box No *1504(London)*. ✍

HUMOROUS, tall, easy going, good looking, single guy, 42, n/s, athletic, artistic, well travelled seeks bright, slim, happy lady 30-40 for long walks, log fires. London/Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 1523 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMEN

IS it too late for this bright sometimes funny, irreverent, solvent, 50ish, hedonistic but caring guy to find a loving lady with style to share Christmas skiing and, hopefully, more... London based Reply Box 1481 ☎ ✍

LADY - Your ideal man is: A- intelligent, B- attractive, C- humorous, D- early 30's or E- all of the above. If your choice is E, reply Box No 1453. London based. ☎ ✍

LAID-BACK, good looking, tall prof male seeks amusing, attractive, intelligent woman 30-40 for light-hearted fun relationship. Bath/environs. Photo please to Box No 1440 ✍

LONDON city based professional, 42. Own self made company. Has most things in life but still not happy. WLTM similar lady 35-45. Let's start with lunch/dinner. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1473 ✍

NORTHWEST man, young 56, 6 ft, fit & articulate, likes country, garden, books, art. Photo apprec. Box No 1404 ✍

NOTTS, Leics, Lincs, for 100's of quality ladies, call now for free details Elite Introductions 0115 9376104

PEOPLE think I'm kidding when I say I'm 74. Because I look & feel younger I'm seeking a very special lady in her early 60's with whom to share the good life. Someone to love & cherish. She must be N/S, slimmish, nice looking and London based. Among other things I like music, theatre, home life, walking & occasional travel. A recent photo would be appreciated. Reply to Box No 1466 ✍

PEOPLE do need people. Charismatic, sensitive entrepreneur, tall, 49, with lots of warmth to offer, seeks same from a genuine, tactile, petite lady, 30-45 preferably with no ties. Likes should include travel, theatre, good food and cuddles! Photo appreciated. London/ Home Counties. Photo to Box No 1422 ✍

PROFESSIONAL man 51 with sense of adventure & GSOH offers holiday in Lanzarote Dec 12-26, 5 star hotel to an intelligent attractive lady, golfer perhaps, 40-45. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1430 ✍

PROFESSIONAL Indian Christian male, mid 30's, never married, seeks genuine affectionate attractive female (N/S) of similar background. Oxon. Please Reply to Box No 1339 ✍

S.WARKS tall, fit, solvent N/S passionate, caring man 51, usual interests. Seeks womanly woman for love. Box No 1101 ✍

SHROPSHIRE/N Wales - ring Elite Introductions *for* that special partner. Freecall 0500 300 336

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

SENSITIVE, kind, easy going, dependable PR exec, smart & stylish & casual. Into London life & entertainment weekdays, mountains, moors & countryside weekends. Seeks lively, under 35(ish) for relaxed but exciting friendship & (hopefully) committed relationship. Photo plse to Box No 1324 ☎ ✍

STRONG single supportive grad, young 38, honourable, SOH, wishes to be a father. Would suit widow or divorcee (30's?) who values family life. Herts. Box No 9373 ✍

SUCCESSFUL London based 37 yr old entrepreneur who loves all sport, seeks fun loving, attractive, fit & curvey 24-34 yr old lady for fun & romance. Photo please. Box No 1406 ☎ ✍

WIDOWER 53, N/S, no children, enjoys the simple things in life. Looking for a sincere, unpretentious home loving lady in the Cockermouth area who loves life and all it has to offer. Reply to Box No 1280 ✍

WIDOWER 70, tall, professional, energetic, WLTM slim, shapely, cultivated lady for lasting companionship, London or Home Counties. Photo/tel no. requested. Box No 1213 ✍

YORKSHIRE/Humberside 100's of stylish gentlemen Call Elite Intros Freecall 0500 625240

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

CHARISMATIC, very male, tall & good looking. Successful E. Midlands entrepreneur, early 50's. Enviable life style, all the usual sporty pursuits, but lacking one important *piece of* life's jigsaw puzzle. WLTM very attractive, tall, slim, unattached, tactile lady 35-45 who wants some excitement & romance. Amusing letter & photo/tel no. to Box No 1326 ☎ ✍

DO MEN *feel intimidated by you?* Too busy for a steady relationship? Meet your match! Tall, sensuous MD (47) WLTM you for fun, cuddles & more. London/Oxford. Reply to Box No 1221 ✍

DOWN-TO-EARTH, successful executive, 34, multi national is interested in meeting professional single girl who enjoys life & has GSOH for a long term relationship. London based. Photo please. Box 1172 ✍

EX-RAF pilot with 38 ft yacht (sail) seeks N/S agile crew (40+) for spring/summer cruising Med in '97. Previous sailing exp not essential. Please Reply with photo to Box No 1309 ✍

GENTLE, aware, graduate, young 50's, N/S, tactile, sensuous, yet meditative and spiritual, own business, widely travelled, many interests, inc. Reiki, healing, Tai Chi, personal growth, seeking special woman, probably 40's, similar self awareness and interests, curvy, playful, affectionate to share holding hands, hugs, passion, laughter, tears, stillness, candlelit moments, music, picnics, country walks and hopefully much more on our journey together. S. East. Photo appreciated. Box No 1273 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

Perfect Harmony
DINING CLUB
For Single Business and Professional People
Join us at our Dinner Party at Quaglino's Restaurant of St. James, SW1 on Saturday 23rd November.
Xmas Party at The Lanesborough Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, SW1
Tel 01923 840441

GENTLEMEN

GOOD LOOKING, successful, dark haired, assertive business man, aged 42. Enjoys excellent lifestyle, needs to be distracted from busy work schedule. WLTM glamorous, feminine, very attractive lady, under 40, *for a fun one to one* relationship including eating out, theatre and travel. Photo and telephone no. appreciated. Box No 1022 ✍

HAPPY, fun loving business man, mad about boats, likes walks, dining out, travel, cooking, time at home. Seeks attractive, slim, intelligent n/s lady 35-45. Must have GSOH for fun, adventure, romance and share life with. South Coast/London. Can you take up the challenge? Photo please Reply to Box No 1175 ✍

INTERESTING energetic presentable 40's male with a love *of* the outdoors and the good things in life WLTM an attractive like minded spirit. Please reply to Box No 1313 ✍

PROFESSIONAL (32) Oxford educated. Tall, slim, athletic. Interests: skiing, riding, music, Westend WLTM educated, attractive, slim lady (20-40) *for* romance and laughter *South* East please reply with photo Box 1190 ✍

SHEFFIELD man, late thirties seeks lady who enjoys classical music, wine and Autumnal Wales. Box No 1157 ✍

SUFFOLK Wellbred and happy 1939 Rabbit needs dynamic and amorous 1947/48 Pig to share his life and ambitions. Please Reply to Box No 9984 ✍

SURREY Widower 60's fantastic thrilling and wise seeks Surrey widow, Goldie Hawn lookalike. Petite, pretty composite girl with smiley natural effect looks photo please. Box No 1240 ✍

SURVEYOR 38 set on sailing sabbatical summer '97 seeks sensuous shipmate. Box No 9975

TALL, slim, handsome man (35), n/s professional, urbane, single, tenderly assertive seeks perceptive, elegantly voluptuous woman (45-55) for long-term loving relationship. Photo/phone. London/SE. Box 1124 ✍

TRAVEL enthusiast. Man, 57, healthy, energetic, slim, 5'8, divorced, taken early retirement, well educated, solvent, homes in London and California interested the arts, classical music, long walks, good conversation, going out or staying in! WLTM petite, affectionate, n/s lady 45-55 to share fun, adventure, laughter and a long and loving relationship. Photo and phone number. Please Reply to Box no 1169 ✍

UNPRETENTIOUS Leicestershire gent 38. Seeks female companion 25-35 to share world travel, nights at the Opera and days in the Country plus many other diverse interests. Short chatty letter + photo if poss. Box 1335 ✍

YOU are bright, sparky, witty and have wings. You want an educated, caring, self- confident, successful, wealthy, adventurous, travelled, sporting man. I'm 6ft, 44 optimistic and no ties. Send photo and go for him! Box No 1244 ✍

GAY man 44, slim, smart, straight acting, N/S, GSOH. Enjoys everything domestic, books, countryside, life WLTM professional gentleman 40-55 needing love, support, companionship, respect, secure permanent 1-1 relationship anywhere. Box No [illegible] ✍

GAY man London/home counties, seeking long term relationships, should call Significant Others. 0171 494 0009

HANDSOME professional Italian, 35, gay, sincere seeks mature, cultured man (50-60) for friendship. London based. Tel no/Photo apprec. Box No 1236 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

Sara Eden

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Head office: Eden House, Thames St, Windsor, SL4 1PR
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THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY

Professional people often don't meet their ideal partner in their current social circle.
That's where Zygosis can help.
We are highly selective, operate nationally, are confidential, discreet and produce results.
We look forward to your call.

LONDON 0171 629 6979	GLASGOW 0141 849 0301	EDINBURGH 0131 556 5655
YORKSHIRE 0113 245 8787	NORTH EAST 0191 261 2224	MIDLANDS 0990 143078
NORTH WEST 01625 582800	SOUTH WEST 01225 858514	SOUTH EAST 01622 691200

★ DOCTORS • ARCHITECTS • LAWYERS • MARKETING • WRITERS • COMPUTING ★

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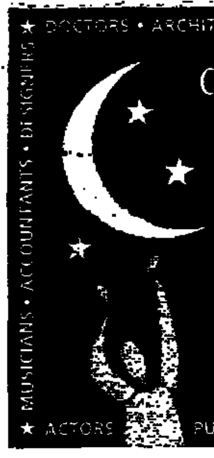

drawing down *the* moon

The original personalised introduction agency
Est 1984
PROBABLY THE BEST AGENCY IN THE WORLD

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24 hours
Member ABIA

MUSICIANS • ACCOUNTANTS • DESIGNERS

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ABUNDANCE OF STUNNING LADIES -
shortage of nice men!
Candleburners
has some super chaps already but you get snapped up very quickly so we always need more.
Personal Introductions and Enchanting Evenings for attractive, professional people
Please call Cheryl Brown
Est 1990 **0171 371 5535**

tête à tête
WANTED
21st Century ladies together enough to wine & dine with elegant gentlemen at Londons top restaurants
Call Eleanor or Ing-id on
01442 879074
or 0181 671 9455
Exclusive Social Dining Club

VIRGINIA CHARLES

The exclusive introduction agency for people of quality and integrity

The Old Brewery, Burford,
Oxfordshire OX18 4SG

Telephone
01993 824500

LONDON AND NATIONWIDE

THE UK'S LARGEST GROUP OF INTERLINKED LOCAL OFFICES.

As seen on BBC TV

- *Professional, selective & caring service*
- *FREE, no-obligation personal interviews.*
- *Discreet approach - guaranteed confidentiality*

Elite INTRODUCTIONS
"IT REALLY WORKS!"
Est.1989

FREECALL REDIRECTED TO YOUR LOCAL OFFICE
0500 003444
OPEN 7 DAYS
http://www.eliteintroductions.co.uk

31A St James's Square London SW1

The EXECUTIVE *Club*

Since 1985 people of quality have been introduced through our exclusive social events and superb introduction service. We invite membership to complement almost certainly the largest selection of unattached professionals in the UK.

- *Personal introductions*
- *Social events*

http://www.executiveclub-uk.com/exec

0171 499 8833

SINGLES PARTY
BUFFET DANCE - TOP MAYFAIR NIGHTCLUB - LONDON

Join us on a Saturday night for our Christmas Party. Probably Britain's top singles event. The evening starts at 8pm with a cocktail reception, live music provided by The Sigma String Quartet. We follow this with a sit down, 3 course 'gourmet' buffet. Talk and dance until 3am, if you wish. Until midnight all drinks are unlimited and free. Your fellow guests will make you most welcome. We have many social hostesses to keep everyone mixing. If you have never been to a top singles event before, or out on your own before, then this is the event, call for more information. Most people come on their own (it's more fun) as everyone is very friendly. We promise you a great night out, in the company of unattached professionals, the like of which, you will find refreshing. Dress: Gentlemen, Suits with collar and tie, ladies, cocktail wear. Cost members £38, guests of members £44, invited guests £48 (phone for an invitation).

This is just one of the 40 events our members may attend each month. Social membership costs £40 for 4 months, or £125 for 2 years.

ASSOCIATE OFFICES ALL OVER THE UK
London Dublin Edinburgh (New York)
Brighton, Nottingham, Leeds, Sheffield, York

Hello! I'm Linda

I've worked for The Executive Club for 11 years. I've made *1,000's of friends nearly all of* whom are now in committed relationships.

One of our 21 staff, I am a client advisor. My job is to make friends with clients allocated to me, assist them to select people to meet and guide them throughout their membership, until such time as they find someone very special.

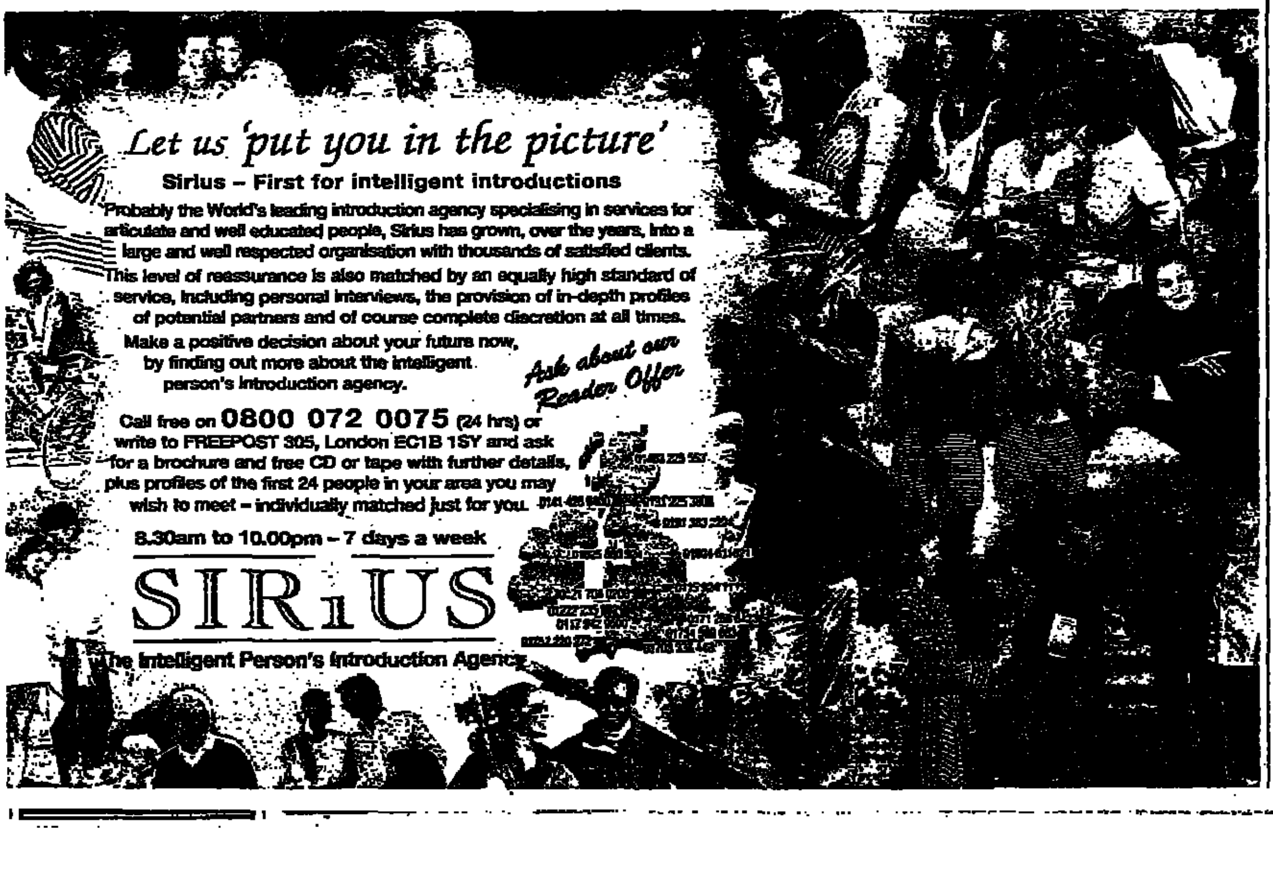
My job is made easy as we are a selective membership organisation and only take on clients of whom we are both proud and sure that our service will work well for.

My company pays the joining fees of any other introduction service in the world if a client is unhappy, which is very rare indeed. I've even seen them refund clients' money if they encounter financial difficulties such as redundancy.

I am proud to work for such an ethical company and I can assure you that if you're nice enough to join us, we nearly always find you someone special.

Love, Linda.

P.S. Regards to all our ex members.



Let us 'put you in the picture'

Sirius – First for intelligent introductions

Probably the World's leading introduction agency specialising in services for articulate and well educated people, Sirius has grown, over the years, into a large and well respected organisation with thousands of satisfied clients.

This level of reassurance is also matched by an equally high standard of service, including personal interviews, the provision of in-depth profiles of potential partners and of course complete discretion at all times.

Make a positive decision about your future now, by finding out more about the intelligent person's introduction agency.

Call free on **0800 072 0075** (24 hrs) or write to FREEPOST 305, London EC1B 1SY and ask for a brochure and free CD or tape with further details, plus profiles of the first 24 people in your area you may wish to meet – individually matched just for you.

8.30am to 10.00pm – 7 days a week

SIRIUS

The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency

If you Sail on a **Sunday**, *Marinade on a* **Monday**, *Tango on a* **Tuesday**, *Wine taste on a* **Wednesday**, *Tee-off on a* **Thursday**, *Fence on a* **Friday.**

Make sure you place an ad in Saturday's Rendezvous if you want to reach like-minded people.

Rendezvous has added a superb new telephone feature *which is FREE for our advertisers. When you place your* personal ad in Rendezvous, (at the cost of £8.25 per line and a box number charge of £11.75), you will receive simple instructions on how to record your free voice greeting*, and how to retrieve messages that have been left for you, also for free*.

The Times has always been the best place to meet other *sincere, professional* people, and our new telephone feature makes it faster and more effective than ever before. You'll still receive postal replies, but now you'll also have many more quality responses from our easy to use, confidential voice messaging system.

MEETING PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!
SO, DON'T MISS OUT – PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

Call 0171 680 6868

SPECIAL OFFER!

Until further notice, when you book your advertisement for 2 consecutive Saturdays you will only be charged £5.75 per line each week and a single Box No. charge of £11.75.

A 30% Discount For 2 Weeks Advertising!

For help with your copy call 0171 680 6868. Fax: 0171 481 9313 or return the coupon below.

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ACCESS ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ CARD NO: ....
EXPIRY DATE: .... SIGNATURE: ....

This offer is open to private advertisers only. Please attach your wording and send to:
Saturday Rendezvous, Classified Advertising, Times Newspapers Limited, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BL

THE TIMES

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